

STARS & STRIPES

Your Hometown Newspaper

COMING SOON



Scene on Sunday

Adventures in the Outback



William Shatner

Sunday

Celebrity news from Parade

Don't miss a single issue.

For home delivery, call DSN
225-4505 (Japan)
721-7140 (Korea)
645-2010 (Okinawa)

TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	26
American Roundup	18-19
Classified	27-29
Comics	24-26
Crossword	25
Faces	13
Horoscope	24
Letters	22
Opinion	23
Sports	32-40
TV listings	16
Weather	17
Your Money	15

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Russia's terror fight: President Vladimir Putin appointed a former security service officer and diplomat to be his envoy dealing with the fight against terrorism and trans-border crime, the Interfax news agency reported.

Putin named as his anti-terrorism envoy Anatoly Safonov, who served in both the Soviet-era KGB and its successor, the Federal Security Service, where he rose to be first deputy director. He also served as a deputy foreign minister beginning in 2001.

Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov, meanwhile, announced that the government would devote \$103 million this year to urgent anti-terrorism measures, Interfax said.

N. Korea nuke talks: A senior U.S. diplomat on Tuesday accused North Korea of deliberately stalling six-nation negotiations aimed at getting Pyongyang to dismantle its nuclear weapons programs, as he met Japanese diplomats in an effort to find a breakthrough in the talks.

The United States, North and South Korea, Japan, China and Russia have met for three rounds of six-nation talks, but little progress has been made. A fourth round slated for September never took place because the North refused to attend.

"Unfortunately, I don't have a good crystal ball regarding North Korea," U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said in Tokyo.

Philippines ferry attack: A Muslim militant accused of planting a bomb that killed more than 100 people on a Philippine ferry wanted an even bigger blast but couldn't fit more explosives into the TV set that he used, a key witness has told investigators.

After initially downplaying the possibility of a terrorist attack, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on Monday linked the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group to the Feb. 27 explosion and fire that gutted the Superferry 14.

Among those charged with multiple counts of murder are Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjani and alleged bomber Habil Dellosa. Janjani remains at large, while Dellosa was arrested in March.

Haitian riots: Gunfire cracked around Haiti's capital as hundreds of mourners gathered to bury five police officers killed in a week of violence pitting supporters of the U.S.-backed government and ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Photographs of three officers who were beheaded sat beside their cremated remains in a police academy where the funerals were held Monday, while the open cas-



Diana memorial closure: The Princess Diana memorial fountain in London's Hyde Park is to close again within the next few weeks to replace grass that has become worn out and sodden with water splashed from the fountain. Workers also will install steel bars below bridges over the fountain to prevent children from climbing under and becoming trapped.

kets of two others shot to death were prepared for burial as mourners sang hymns.

States

WTC insurance trial: World Trade Center leaseholder Larry Silverstein suffered a financial blow earlier this year when a federal jury ruled that for insurance purposes, the planes hitting the twin towers on Sept. 11, 2001, constituted one event — not two.

His lawyers were hoping that in the second round of the legal battle, a jury could be convinced otherwise. Jury selection was scheduled to begin Tuesday.

Silverstein argued in the first trial, which ended in May, that he should receive \$7 billion, or twice the \$3.5 billion insurance policy on the trade center.

Tour bus crash: A federal investigator said the driver of a tour bus involved in a deadly crash apparently had been driving all night without backup.

"We need to look at hours of service," said National Transportation Safety Board investigator Gary Van Etten. "What he did during the daytime hours would be of great interest to us so we could evaluate any possible fatigue that he might have had."

The crash Saturday along Interstate 55 north of Marion, Arkansas, killed driver Herbert Walters and 13 Chicago-area passengers on their semiannual trek to a Tumi-

ca, Mississippi, casino.

Sex toy arrest: The case against an adult novelty store employee accused of displaying sex toys was dismissed on Monday by an El Paso County Criminal Court judge.

Judge Alma Trejo granted a defense motion to dismiss the case against Sergio Acosta, manager of Tres Equis in El Paso, Texas. A spokesman for the El Paso County District Attorney's Office said the ruling will be appealed.

Acosta was arrested on Sept. 25 as part of an El Paso Police Department sting operation after he had allegedly displayed and described the use of a sex toy to a female police officer.

Gay marriage: The U.S. Capitol at their backs, supporters of gay marriage pleaded, demanded and sang out for equal rights Monday, hoping they will succeed in the long term but mindful of the hostile political environment they face today.

Opponents of gay marriage, led by President George W. Bush, are trying to amend the U.S. Constitution to outlaw gay and lesbian marriages. Voters in 11 states will consider such amendments to state constitutions in November, and most, if not all, are expected to pass. Even many politicians friendly to gay rights say they oppose same-sex marriage.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Zama ITT

Fun Tours

Serving you with a difference

Zama ITT

Your reliable on-base travel office

Check our website

for specials!!

<http://lzamaitt.com>

It's not too late to sign up our Escapade Tours

Thanksgiving Escapade - Beijing tour sold out!

Book other destinations today! Singapore & Seoul available

Proceeds Support Your Local Zama MWR

ITT Office Mailing Address:
International Tours Office
USAGJ, Unit 45005
Zama-shi
APO AP 96343-5005

Japanese Address:
ITT, Camp Zama
Bldg. 533
Zama-shi
Kanagawa-ken 228-0027

PHONE FAX:
263-4059/3273 (military) 263-7507 (military)
0462-54-8896 0462-55-0306 (commercial)
97-1740 (commercial)
03-3295-0721 (Tokyo) 263-8662

E-MAIL: travel@zamaitt.com

STAR

BEST OF THE PACIFIC

Voted Best Travel Agent 2003 & 2004

Storm winds cause Yokosuka ships to collide

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Trees snapped, mud slid, a roof blew away, a porta-potty tipped over — and just minutes before it was supposed to start, the Navy Ball was postponed. If that weren't enough, Saturday's typhoon sent the USS Vincennes out of its berth and into the USS Coronado, damaging both ships.

A Pacific Fleet team of investigators was on its way to Yokosuka to determine why the Vincennes was blown from its berth and into the USS Coronado, which was moored two berths over. But everyone already agrees that it started with the winds from Typhoon Min-ta.

Winds gusting to 91 miles per hour and sustained winds of up to 72 miles per hour snapped the lines that held the ship to the pier.

"I was shocked when I saw us pulling away, and we were free, floating," a Vincennes sailor said. "There really was nothing we could do."

Cmdr. Mark J. Englebert, the Vincennes captain, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Lines holding USS Vincennes to pier snap as typhoon-strength gusts unexpectedly hit base

Yokosuka base weather forecasters had predicted that the storm would not bring sustained winds of 58 miles per hour or more — the standard for when naval bases are recommended to go into "Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness 1." Instead, the base was on "storm watch."

"Storm watch" means that although destructive winds are not forecast to occur, there is still a possibility of danger because of the storm's nearness and the possibility its course could alter, said Lt. Alton Turek, assistant operations officer at the base Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Center.

But for two periods of about 10 minutes each, Turek said, Saturday's storm did bring sustained destructive winds, starting at about 5:15 p.m.

About half an hour later, about 5:45 p.m. or so, according to base spokesman Mike Chase, Yokosuka went into Tropical Cyclone

Condition Emergency 1 and the base gates were shut.

But the Vincennes already had broken loose, at about 5 p.m., according to a news release. There was some concern it might hit the USS Chancellorville, berthed next to it — which some sailors said the Vincennes crew actively tried to prevent. They cut the remaining lines, dropped their anchor and started the ship's engine.

None of it worked. The anchor dragged, the engine was started too late to propel the ship to safety, and a sailor said, they were pointed in the wrong direction to steer it anyway.

The hit punched several holes above the waterline on the starboard side of the Vincennes. The damage to the Coronado was "minor," according to naval officials.

Both ships remained "mission capable," according to Lt. Cmdr. Mark Boyd, a Seventh Fleet spokesman.

"I think we came out with the best possible outcome," a sailor said. "We could have run aground. That would have been worse."

Naval public affairs officers would not comment on the incident.

Saturday was the second time in as many months that a tropical storm pushed a ship berthed at Yokosuka somewhere it was not supposed to be. In September, the USSN Yukon, an oiler, was grounded on soft mud about 400 yards from its anchored position during wind gusts of 51 mph from Typhoon Songda.

At the base weather center, Lt. Turek said the "storm watch" warning should have been sufficient for people to take precautions. "The potential for destructive winds is there," he said.

Yokota Air Base was in a higher level of alert because the Air Force, which must protect planes, has different readiness standards from the Navy, which focuses on keeping its ships safe. Wind gusts

of more than 58 mph will send Air Force bases into the highest state of readiness, which the Navy doesn't enter until expecting sustained winds of more than 58 mph.

Turek acknowledged that the center's forecast — sustained winds of 46 mph and gusts of 69 mph — was a little bit off.

"I wish we could forecast to 100 percent. If we could, we'd be the golden child of the scientific community," he said. "We issue a storm watch for ones that we feel there's a possibility for this to go awry. In this case, that's exactly what happened. It did alter its track and give us winds that were in excess of what we forecast."

By Tuesday afternoon, most of the debris and damage the storm caused had been cleared away.

As we speak, the only cleanup operation that is ongoing is beautification — crews picking up leaves and small branches," said Yokosuka spokesman Mike Chase.

Chase said no monetary damage estimate was available yet. But, he said, Saturday's storm caused more damage than any since 1996's Typhoon Violet, which brought wind gusts of more than 115 mph.

E-mail Nancy Montgomery at: montgomeryna@strips.esd.mil

Holiday travel plans? Check passports now

Embassies warn: Don't wait until you're at the airport to realize they've expired

BY DAVID ALLEN

Stars and Stripes

URASOE, Okinawa — If you're going home for the holidays, the staff that takes care of passports at your closest U.S. embassy or consulate has a favor to ask of you:

Take a look at your passport right now and make sure it's still valid.

"One of the biggest problems we have during the holidays is people don't realize their passports have expired," said Kaoru Akena, one of four people at the U.S. Consulate in Okinawa who process the paperwork for some 5,000 passports a year.

"It's not uncommon for us to get a call from the airport from someone who is in a panic because they have tickets for their next flight back to the States and they're stuck because their passport expired."

She remembers one family with two children that called the consulate begging for emergency passports.

"It's not as uncommon as you might think," said co-worker Shige Higa. "In 2003 we issued 432 emergency passports and for the first eight months of this year, we have issued 158."

All military members and their dependents must start the process of obtaining or renewing passports with their military passport office.

U.S. Embassy officials in Tokyo agree it's crucial that Americans verify their passports' expiration dates, particularly before holiday travel.

"Every year, some Americans have their holiday or vacation travel plans spoiled when they realize belatedly that their passports have expired, and there is nothing the embassy can do to help them," said embassy spokeswoman Judy Bryant.

Emergency passports can be issued only for life-or-death emergencies, she said. Individuals who forgot them or overlooked an expiration date aren't eligible to receive one.

She declined to say how many emergency passports have been issued over the past two years, saying only that the U.S. Embassy issues them to "all who need them for real life-or-death emergencies."

Bryant said passports can be renewed only up to six months before expiration. The normal processing time is three weeks, but that could take longer during peak periods.

Bundles of joy mean mountains of paperwork

Can't wait to show off your new baby to family in the States? You'd better get started on the passport paperwork.

Parents of newborns often do not realize how long it takes to get passports for babies born overseas. Some parents want to take their babies back to the States as soon as possible to be with their families but neglect to do all the paperwork in time for the flight they booked.

"It is very important to start the passport process as soon as the child is born," said Kinney Yumi, who handles passport processing at the U.S. Consulate in Okinawa. "Usually it only takes a month, but sometimes the parents don't take that into account."

She said the consulate handles approximately 100 passports for babies every month — 1,310 in 2002, 998 last year and 1,014 for the first eight months of this year.

All military personnel and Americans covered by the status of forces agreement should initiate the process as soon as possible after their children are born, she said.

In terms of paperwork, she said, having a baby overseas is more complicated than having a baby in the States.

"Some parents are surprised to hear about all the documents they will need in order to get a baby passport, and a Consular Report of Birth Abroad," she said.

To begin the process, parents need proof of their U.S. citizenship, proof of the baby's birth, proof of

their marriage to each other and proof of the termination of any of their previous marriages. And the documentation must be original and true copies.

All of that documentation must be submitted with an application for a Consular Report of Birth, passport application, two identical photos of the baby and fees.

"It's important all the paperwork be original copies, usually with a raised seal," Yumi said. "We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies."

Starting Dec. 1, processing passports for all babies born after Nov. 1 will be given priority, she said. "This is the annual holiday rush. This way babies born before the holidays can travel home with their parents. Also, remember that children's passports are valid for only five years. Please make sure your child's passport is still valid when you go on vacation."

Another frequent problem, said Kaoru Akena of the U.S. Consulate in Okinawa, involves active-duty personnel who did not realize they might need a passport to travel to certain countries while on duty.

"There are many countries active-duty military members can travel to with just their ID cards and military orders," she said. "But that depends on where you go."

She recommended that all servicemembers transferring or deploying with the unit to another country check whether they need a passport.

"Remember, it may take a month to receive your passport," she said.

— David Allen

Call DSN 226-3121 for more information.

Information also is available at the U.S. Embassy's Web site for American Citizen Services at www.tokyooacs.com.

Joseph Goldstein, Vince Little and Jennifer R. Ivan contributed to this report.

E-mail David Allen at: allen@stpsrip.esd.mil

'Remembering our Marine brothers'

Camp Fuji to honor 13 servicemembers who died in '79 fire

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

Marines at Camp Fuji, Japan, will pause Friday morning for their annual fire memorial ceremony.

The observance marks the Oct. 19, 1979, blaze that claimed the lives of 13 Marines and injured dozens more. The gasoline fire was triggered by a powerful typhoon that raked the area with high winds and torrential downpours.

Retired Fuji fire chief Akira Katsumata, who answered that tragic call a quarter-century ago, will be the guest speaker. Local Japanese dignitaries and govern-

ment officials from nearby Takigahara Garrison, Fuji schools, Gotemba, Oyama and Susono also will attend the 8 a.m. commemoration.

Fuji's command element will play key roles during the ceremony, which is being conducted by Sgt. Maj. Randolph L. Mitchell.

In October 1979, Typhoon Titi, then the strongest storm to reach mainland Japan in 13 years, brought 115 mph winds and heavy rains to Fuji. More than 1,250 Marines from Camp Schwab, Okinawa, were being housed in Quonset huts on the installation's upper half for training.

A fuel farm, which consisted of two rubber storage bladders kept in place by a retaining wall, sat just up the hill. After rains from Titi ended the wall and allowed a bladder to break free, hoses sprang loose, releasing 5,000 gallons of gasoline.

The fuel skimmed the water's surface and ran across upper Fuji and into the Quonset huts. Shortly after 1:40 p.m., a

heater inside one of the huts ignited the gasoline.

Firefighting vehicles arrived on the scene within 10 minutes. Emergency units from Takigahara Garrison, Gotemba City and the Gotemba-Oyama Fire Department also responded. By 3:45 p.m., the blaze was under control but still not extinguished entirely.

Fifty-one Marines and three Japanese nationals were injured; 15 huts were destroyed and several other buildings were damaged.

Casualties were evacuated to local hospitals in Gotemba, Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Yokosuka Naval Base and Yokota Air Base, as well as Brooks Army Medical Center in San Antonio. Vehicles and ambulances from Fuji Schools and Takigahara Garrison supported the transport, while Atsugi's Headquarters, 2nd Detachment of the USS White Plains, a combat stores ship, provided airlift support for helicopter evacuations.

Of the 54 people taken to medical facilities, 13 Marines later died from their injuries.

A bell will ring Friday as the names of all 13 are called out: Pfc. Robert L. Brees, Pfc. Thomas J. Breunig, Lance Cpl. Willie Davis Jr., Lance Cpl. Philip E. Dupont, Pfc. Tyrone C. Elen, Lance Cpl. Ernest E. Guierrez, Pvt. Gregory L. Hassel, Pfc. Roger A. Larson, Lance Cpl. L.C. Malveaux, Cpl. Colm Miller, Lance Cpl. Orlando E. Sandoval, Lance Cpl. Robert V. Smith Jr. and Lance Cpl. Stephen R. Turner.

Lance Cpl. Anthony J. Garcia said the annual Camp Fuji Fire Memorial Ceremony holds significant meaning for today's Marines.

"Remembering our Marine brothers is a mandatory duty to do," he said. "When Marines make the ultimate sacrifice, we have a duty to remember that sacrifice. I find it an honor to stand at attention and pay tribute to those who have fallen before me."

Vince Little at
E-mail: vince@stripes.cd.mil

STAR card rate going up in November

The interest rate for the Military STAR card will go up to 9.75 percent — from 9.5 percent — starting with the November billing period, Army and Air Force Exchange officials announced Tuesday.

AAFPES spokeswoman Army Sgt. 1st Class Amanda Glenn said the hike is based on the Federal Reserve's rate increase. The Federal Reserve announced Sept. 21 that it would raise the prime rate to 4.75 percent. The Military STAR card's interest is the prime rate plus 5 percent.

"This affects interest rates across the board," Glenn said. Customers will receive notification of the rate change in their October statements.

New purchases after the November billing period constitute acceptance of the revised interest rate, according to an AAFES news release. The rate increase does not apply to Military Clothing Plans, special promotions already in existence or to customers on deployment whose balances are treated under special conditions or have balances at reduced rates.

Navy secretary to visit sailors on Guam

Secretary of the Navy Gordon England is to arrive on Guam Thursday to visit with commanding officers and sailors, according to a Commander, Naval Forces Marianas news release.

Rear Adm. Arthur J. Johnson, the CNFM commander, invited England to the Navy's 229th Birthday Ball on Friday. The secretary will meet with sailors, Coast Guard members, and local government and business officials during his stay.

England also is to be the guest speaker at the Coast Guard Cutter Sequia commissioning ceremony Friday at 10 a.m. at U.S. Naval Base Guam, the news release stated. His wife, Doty, is the cutter's sponsor.

The 22-member ceremonial Seventh Fleet Band is scheduled to play at the morning event, which will be attended by Guam's delegate to the U.S. Congress, Madeleine Bordallo, Guam Gov. Felix Camacho, Rear Adm. Charles Wurster, the Coast Guard District 14 commander and Johnson.

From staff reports



Try us out for 3 months for FREE!
Yokota's Officers' and Enlisted Clubs

Exciting Live Music and Entertainment
Football Frenzy Parties
Free Membership Festivities
Family Events
Pool/Crud Tournaments
Weekend Cheer

Win Club Bucks
TVs
Prizes
Money Check Cashing - Yen Conversion
Long and convenient hours

Affordable Food Enjoyable Contests Discounts Beverages Friendships Darts Scholarships

New members will be signed up to win and existing members are already entered to win Club Card Credits of \$3,000, \$1,000 or \$500 during our 2004 membership drive. Stop by your Air Force Services Club today!

AIR FORCE SERVICES CLUBS

No. 1 TRAVEL'S NATIONAL NETWORK HAS BEEN SERVING THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY FOR OVER 19 YEARS.

DO YOU HAVE A MILITARY ID? THESE PRICES ARE FOR YOU ONLY!!

CHICAGO or BOSTON
¥48,000~
11/1-12/15

GUAM
¥33,000~
11/1-12/15

SAN DIEGO
¥46,000~
11/4-12/10

http://www.no1-travel.com

Shinjuku Head Office 03-3200-8871 Fax 03-3200-8870 Monday - Friday: 10:00 - 18:30 Saturday & Holiday: Closed	Ikebukuro Branch 03-3986-4291 Fax 03-3986-9989 Monday - Friday: 10:00 - 18:30 Saturday & Holiday: Closed	Shibuya Branch 03-3770-1331 E-mail: no1shb@sales.or.jp Monday - Friday: 10:00 - 18:30 Saturday & Holiday: Closed	Yokohama Branch 045-322-1701 E-mail: no1yok@sales.or.jp Monday - Friday: 10:00 - 18:30 Saturday & Holiday: Closed
--	--	--	---

IMPORTANT

- Prices may vary depending on availability and dates.
- Reservations charge 50 JPY. Please confirm all details at time of booking.
- Taxes/Delivery charges NOT included. Please verify at time of booking.
- All rate quotes based on AVAILABILITY.
- Payment can only be received at branch where reservation was confirmed.
- USD Payments are only accepted at the Yokohama Branch.

U.S. on a pre-Ramadan offensive

Insurgent strongholds pounded from the air and ground

BY ROBERT H. REID
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD—U.S. troops went on the offensive Tuesday against insurgent strongholds west of Baghdad, pounding militant posi-

tions from the air and supporting Iraqi soldiers in raids on mosques suspected of harboring extremists.

The operations were launched ahead of Ramadan, which is expected to start at the end of the week, and appeared aimed at pre-

venting a repeat of the insurgent offensive that occurred at the start of the Muslim holy month last year.

Some of the sharpest clashes took place in Hit, 90 miles northwest of Baghdad, where residents and hospital officials said U.S. air-

craft attacked two sites, killing two people, the hospital said. The U.S. command had no comment.

Tuesday's fighting in Hit occurred one day after U.S. helicopters fired on a mosque there and set it ablaze after the U.S. military said insurgents opened fire on Marines from the sanctuary.

Meanwhile, Iraqi troops backed by U.S. soldiers and Marines raided seven mosques in the Sunni insurgent stronghold of Ramadi, arresting a locally prominent member of a Sunni clerical association and three other people.

U.S. officials said bomb-making materials and "insurgent propaganda" were also seized in the mosques, but angry residents of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, accused the Americans of breaking down doors and violating the sanctity of city mosques.

"This cowboy behavior cannot be accepted," said cleric Abdullah Abu Omar. "The Americans seem to have lost their senses and have gone out of control."

However, the raids followed an upsurge in insurgent attacks in Ramadi, and the U.S. command accused the rebels of violating the sanctity of the mosques by using them for military purposes. Marine spokesman Maj. Francis Piccoli said U.S. troops provided backup but did not enter the mosques.

In Fallujah, the focal point for Sunni resistance, residents reported explosions and clashes on the eastern edge of the city late Tuesday afternoon. At least five people were killed and four injured.

The renewed activity around Fallujah followed a pair of pre-dawn airstrikes on the city, which the U.S. command said targeted hide-outs and meeting places of the feared Tawhid and Jihad, the terrorist organization responsible for numerous kidnappings and beheadings of foreign hostages.

Tuesday's airstrikes in Fallujah occurred as Iraqi officials were in talks with city representatives to restore government control.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 1,064 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 809 died as a result of hostile action and 255 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians. There was no weekend update.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand and the Netherlands reported two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 926 U.S. military members have died — 700 as a result of hostile action and 226 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two soldiers were killed Monday in a rocket attack in Baghdad.

■ A soldier was killed Monday when a car bomb detonated near a convoy in Mosul, Iraq.

■ A Marine was killed Saturday in Anbar province, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Pvt. Jeunglin Na Kim, 25, Honolulu, killed Wednesday in Ramadi, Iraq, when patrol attacked; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Hovey, South Korea.

■ Army Pfc. James E. Prevette, 22, Whitestone, N.Y.; killed Sunday in Habbaniya, Iraq, in a vehicle accident; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 308th Infantry Regiment, Camp Greaves, South Korea.

■ Army Pvt. Carson J. Ramsey, 22, Winkelman, Ariz.; killed Sunday when a car bomb exploded in Baghdad; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

THE NEW SANNO

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wellingtons Special Dinner

21st ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Five Course Dinner Accompanied with Wines

will be served in Private / Anniversary Rooms

Friday, October 22 and Saturday, October 23

Reservations 17:30 and 20:00

\$49.95

Join us for a fabulous evening!

BEATLES NIGHT

Enjoy LIVE ENTERTAINMENT and dancing
Entertainment by

SILVER BEATS

Beatles tribute band features at Roppongi's Cavern Club

November 13, Saturday

Admission & Buffet: \$22.95

(Sorry, No one under twenty years of age permitted)

Ballroom Doors Open 18:30

RESERVATION SUGGESTED

Call the Food and Beverage Reservations Hotline
at 229-7151 or 03-3440-7871 ext. 7151 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.,
229-7161 or 03-3440-7871 ext. 7161 after 5 p.m. daily to make your reservations.
events@thenewsanno.com

Tickets are Non-Refundable

<http://www.thenewsanno.com>

Yokota Baptist Church

Pastor Warren Webster

日本語もあります YBC services are interpreted in Japanese

REACHING THE MILITARY AND JAPAN, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

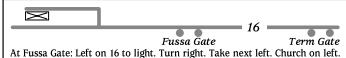
Yokota Christian Academy	M-F	
Sunday		
Awana Club		1900
Early Service	0830	
Sunday School	1000	
Morning Service	1100	
Evening Service	1800	
Monday		
Faith Bible Institute	1830	
Tuesday		
Soul Winning & Visitation	1830	
Wednesday		
Evening Service & Prayer Mig	1900	
Patch & Pee Wee Clubs	1900	

★ Revival Service 27 Oct ~ 2 Nov

★ Fall Festival 31 Oct for YBC members and their guests

0425-52-7254

www.yokotabaptistchurch.tripod.com/



Two cases challenge stop-loss program

BY RONE TEMPEST
Los Angeles Times

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Amid yellow ribbons and farewell banners at a ceremony for Iraq-bound troops here last week was one anonymous combat veteran waving a last-minute federal court battle to stay home.

The California National Guard soldier, identified as "John Doe" in a lawsuit filed Oct. 1 in Sacramento U.S. District Court, contends that the military's controversial "stop-loss" program to involuntarily extend enlistments is illegal when applied to National Guard soldiers, about 40,000 of whom are deployed in the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

Coupled with a similar action filed Aug.

17 in San Francisco that involves another California National Guard soldier under orders to Iraq, the lawsuit is seen as the first serious court test of the so-called backdoor draft, in which thousands of National Guard and Reserve troops have been called on to meet increasing military manpower needs in Iraq.

"Ultimately, this is about fairness," said San Francisco attorney Joshua Sandline, who represents both California soldiers. "It is not fair or appropriate to put the burden of having an expanded military on the backs of those people who have already done their duty."

The "backdoor draft" has become a part of the presidential debate, with Democratic candidate John F. Kerry speaking against it.

And the opposition is not strictly partisan. Arizona Sen. John McCain and other Republicans also have spoken against the practice.

But Lt. Col. Michael Jones, chief of recruiting and retention at National Guard headquarters in Washington, said the two soldiers represent the views of a tiny minority of those whose terms of service have been involuntarily extended.

"It is only two individuals out of 200,000 who are taking this action," said Jones, who also said he doubted that any veteran soldiers would be surprised or caught off-guard by the involuntary call to duty.

The twin California cases are being taken seriously in Washington, where the Justice Department assigned veteran government attorney Matthew Lepore to handle its arguments.

"Stop-loss is at the heart of the military decision-making process," said Washington attorney Matthew Freedus, a former Navy lawyer and specialist on military law. "If anybody gets traction on this, I think there would be a flood of cases."

Both of the California soldiers now in federal court are combat veterans who signed up under the National Guard "Try One" program reserved for veterans. The program, offered nationwide, allows the recruit to bypass basic training while enjoying military education and family medical benefits on a one-year trial period.

Before the soldiers' one-year enlistment expired, however, they were called up under a stop-loss program for 18-month tours that include training and deployment in Iraq.

LICENSE NO. 835



A'cross Travellers Bureau

Best Deals Online

www.across-travel.com

October SPECIALS

DIRECT LOS ANGELES \$41,000~ 10/29-31 10/29-31 MON - FRI	DIRECT NEW YORK \$49,000~ 10/29-31 10/29-31 MON - FRI	USA East Coast \$56,000~ 10/22-31 10/22-31 MON - FRI	HONOLULU \$42,000~ 10/20-27 10/20-27
DIRECT LONDON \$76,000~ 10/19-31 10/19-31 MON - FRI	SYDNEY \$52,000~ 10/17-31 10/17-31 SUN, TU, THU, SAT	BANGKOK \$34,000~ 10/22-29 10/22-29	SINGAPORE \$36,000~ 10/19-31 10/19-31

The Credit Card For TRAVELLERS!

MAPWORLD CARD

NICOB VISA / NICOB MASTER

APPLY NOW!

NO ANNUAL FEE
FOR THE FIRST YEAR

IMPORTANT

(Other restrictions may apply)

Payment Japanese Yen only

Campaign prices are for cash payment.

Prices may vary depending on departure date.

Subject to availability.

Tax not included in these prices.

Please inform us if you need about these prices in Stars & Stripes.

*Taxes starting from these prices.

Japan Domestic Packages available 10days in advance.

Last minute booking OK!

ENJOY!! JAPAN (HOTEL + AIR TICKETS)

SAPPORO \$19,800~ \$180 10/24-29, 11/1-12/1 4 persons per room	OKINAWA \$25,500~ \$232 10/24-29, 11/1-12/1 2 persons per room	OSAKA \$19,500~ \$191 10/24-29, 11/1-12/1 2 persons per room	HIROSHIMA \$21,000~ \$191 10/24-29, 11/1-12/1 2 persons per room
---	---	---	---

FAMILY ROOM CHARGE: 4 PERSONS PER ROOM. SENIORS ROOM CHARGE: 2 PERSONS PER ROOM.

BUSINESS CLASS

LOS ANGELES \$152,000~ (\$1,382) 11/4-12/8	EUROPE MAIN CITIES \$236,000~ (\$2,145) 10/18-11/3	BANGKOK \$152,000~ (\$1,382) 10/18-12/22	SINGAPORE \$261,000~ (\$2,373) 10/21-11/30	HONG KONG \$135,500~ (\$1,232) 10/18-11/30	SEOUL \$83,000~ (\$755) 10/18-11/30
---	---	---	---	---	--

VACATION PACKAGES

GUAM 4days \$32,800~ (\$298) 10/17-29, 11/4-15, 24-30 SUN, MON, TUE	SINGAPORE 4days \$33,800~ (\$307) 10/19-31, 11/4-18 MON, TUE, 11/29, 30	BEIJING 4days \$37,800~ (\$344) 11/22, 29	CEBU 4days \$49,800~ (\$453) 10/19-30, 11/1-12
---	---	---	--

*INCLUDES AIR & HOTEL (BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)
TRANSPORTATION (AIRPORT AND HOTEL)
TAX IS NOT INCLUDED

November SPECIALS

DIRECT LOS ANGELES \$37,000~ 11/1-30 FRI	DIRECT NEW YORK \$46,500~ 11/24-26, 29, 30	USA East Coast \$49,500~ 11/24-26, 29, 30	HONOLULU \$41,000~ 11/1-30 WED
DIRECT LONDON \$62,000~ 11/16-30 MON - FRI	SYDNEY \$52,000~ 11/1-30 SUN, TU, THU, SAT	BANGKOK \$34,000~ 11/15, 12, 19, 26	SINGAPORE \$36,000~ 11/25-30

HIROO

NEAR JR. SHINJUKU STATION
10 MIN. TO EAST EXIT, JR. SHINJUKU
2 MIN. TO EAST EXIT, JR. SHIBUYA
TEL: 03-5795-4711

SHIBUYA

NEAR JR. SHIBUYA STATION
10 MIN. TO EAST EXIT, JR. SHIBUYA
2 MIN. TO EAST EXIT, JR. SHIBUYA
TEL: 03-5467-0077

SHINJUKU

NEAR JR. SHINJUKU STATION
10 MIN. TO EAST EXIT, JR. SHINJUKU
2 MIN. TO EAST EXIT, JR. SHIBUYA
TEL: 03-3340-6745

IKEBUKURO

NEAR JR. IKEBUKURO STATION
10 MIN. TO EAST EXIT, JR. IKEBUKURO
2 MIN. TO EAST EXIT, JR. IKEBUKURO
TEL: 03-5391-3227

YOKOHAMA

NEAR JR. YOKOHAMA STATION
10 MIN. TO EAST EXIT, JR. YOKOHAMA
2 MIN. TO EAST EXIT, JR. YOKOHAMA
TEL: 045-322-7525

IN THE WORLD

U.N. helicopter fetching Afghan ballots crashes

No one hurt, but vote count delayed

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Engine failure downed a U.N. helicopter sent to collect ballot boxes from northeastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, injuring no one but injecting a fresh glitch in efforts to tally the results of the country's landmark election.

The accident came as a panel of foreign experts began probing irregularities in Saturday's vote alleged by rivals to front-running interim leader Hamid Karzai.

The complaints have stalled the start of vote-counting, though officials were hopeful the tally could begin Wednesday. Final results could take until late October.

The helicopter had yet to pick up any ballot boxes when it crash-landed in a snowfield in the Pamir mountains of Badkshan province, said David Avery, chief of operations for the U.N.-Afghan body managing the vote.

The American military said one of its C-130 transport planes dropped emergency supplies including sleeping bags and food to the three crewmembers, three election workers and two police officers on board.

The group took shelter in an abandoned house, and the U.S. military said in a statement that another helicopter would attempt a rescue on Wednesday.

Avery said the loss of the Russian-made Mi-8 would slow the recovery of voting papers from Badkshan, one of the country's most inaccessible provinces. Donkeys have also been used to bring ballot boxes from remote villages. "It's at such an altitude that it's unlikely to be recoverable," Avery said.

The massive task of counting the results of this war-ravaged nation's first-ever Western-style vote

was also being slowed by faulty paperwork accompanying some of the boxes flooding into regional counting centers, Avery said.

Chances for a conclusive outcome were on firmer ground after several of Karzai's challengers backed away from a boycott of the vote, indicating they would accept an independent commission to probe vote-fraud charges.

Karzai is the clear favorite to win, but his ability to consolidate his rule would be undermined if the opposition refused to acknowledge the vote results.

An exit poll conducted by an American group projected Karzai would win with the outright majority needed to avoid a second round, though it has yet to release detailed findings.

Ethnic Tajik candidate Yunus Qanooni, considered Karzai's closest rival, announced Monday he would accept an investigation by independent experts into opposition complaints that the supposedly indecipherable ink used to mark voters' thumbs in some polling stations could be rubbed off, allowing some to vote more than once.

There were indications another rival, ethnic Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, might be considering backing down as well. Dostum traveled to Kabul on Tuesday from his home in the north, and his spokesman said he was considering accepting a compromise.

The candidates had until Tuesday afternoon to submit formal protests.

Election officials said Qanooni and two other candidates were complaining about a shortage of ballot papers in some areas as well as problems with the ink.

Election organizers agreed to the independent panel in hopes it would end a crisis begun when all 15 opposition candidates declared the boycott Saturday.



Four men and three women were found dead in this partially covered van, seen at a police station in Chichibu. The car was parked at an isolated mountainside lot near Tokyo early Tuesday in a suspected group suicide.

Japan suspects 9 deaths were part of suicide pact

BY KENJI HALL
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Nine bodies were found in two parked cars Tuesday with charcoal stoves at their feet and the windows sealed from inside what is believed to be Japan's largest group suicide pact.

In one case, police rushed to a van in a deserted lot outside Tokyo after receiving a call from a friend of a victim, but they failed to reach it in time, finding seven dead — four men and three women, including teenagers and a 33-year-old mother, a police spokesman said.

The other two women were in a rented car at an isolated temple in Yokosuka, about 60 miles southwest of the capital.

Police said there were striking similarities between the two cases. Evidence of a failed joint attempt by two of the women — one from each group — to kill themselves on Oct. 4 had led investigators to believe the suicides might have been planned together, Japanese media quoted police as saying.

The discoveries were the latest in a rash of suicide pacts that have left dozens of Japanese dead in recent years. Many of the cases involving people from distant parts of the country started by meetings over the Internet, sparking calls for the government to shut down suicide message boards.

The seven found slumped in their seats in a rented van in Saitama prefecture northwest of Tokyo was the largest-known group to commit suicide together, said a National Police Agency official, who demanded anonymity.

Suicide pacts have been made over the Internet since at least the late 1990s, and have been reported everywhere from Guam to the Netherlands. But

they've been happening in especially large numbers in Japan, where the suicide rates are among the world's highest.

More than 32,000 Japanese committed suicide last year, a record.

Between January 2003 and June 2004, 45 people committed suicide in groups after meeting over the Internet, according to the National Police Agency.

Suicide Web sites are easy to find. They post disclaimers about the dangers of their content, which includes death wishes and exchanges on methods of dying. Some Japanese-language sites feature lists of materials necessary for self-asphyxiation and ready-made kits for sale.

In Tuesday's case, officers found the van with seven inside after getting a call from a friend of one of the victims who had received an e-mail hinting at suicide.

A woman sat in the driver's seat, while the six others sat in two rows behind her. The van windows were sealed with vinyl tape from the inside, and four charcoal stoves were on the floor.

Police found several suicide notes but no external wounds or signs of a struggle. Investigators think the seven poisoned themselves by inhaling lethal doses of carbon monoxide, the spokesman said.

The two women, whose car was near an isolated temple in Yokosuka, also were found with charcoal stoves at their feet. The car's windows were sealed with a black plastic tarp.

Japan's government has blamed a decade-long economic slump for an increasing number of people, especially middle-aged men, killing themselves. Younger people have said bullying, romantic breakups or abusive family members made them want to kill themselves.

In Russia, thirst for revenge replacing grief

The Associated Press

BESLAN, Russia — Wailing and pounding their hands on dirt graves, hundreds of black-clad Ossetians marked the end of the traditional 40-day mourning period for the children and adults killed after terrorists seized a school on the first day of classes.

With the end of the mourning, fears are rising that fits of grief may become outbursts of violence against the Ingush, a rival ethnic group whose members were among the raiders who seized School No. 1. Top federal and regional officials have appealed for calm,

but seething anger is replacing sorrow felt by nearly all Ossetians.

"I can promise you there will be violence," said a 47-year-old man outside the school who gave only his first name, Ruslan. "The [Ingush] are all bandits."

The school's broken and shattered remains yet again became the epicenter for the anguish of those whose relatives and friends died in the Sept. 1-3 hostage-taking. In the charred ruins of the gymnasium — where more than 1,000 people were held without food or water in sweltering heat for three days — schoolchildren lit thin prayer candles

and people propped up small religious icons and photographs among the flowers and stuffed animals.

Across Russia, priests read Masses in Orthodox churches and cathedrals, while regional politicians urged calm amid rumors that the end of the mourning period would bring a wave of revenge killings.

Former Ingush President Ruslan Aushev has repeatedly warned that revenge attacks could destabilize the entire Caucasus. But Russian authorities have vowed to prevent acts of vengeance, dispatching hundreds of extra police and troops to the region.

Alona Pilyeva, right, and classmates cry over a display of children's shoes at classmate No. 1 in Beslan, Russia, on Tuesday, the end of the 40-day mourning period.



Christian Service Charities

Christian charities you know and trust.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2055 A Child's Hope Fund | 2088 Christian Military Fellowship |
| 2056 ACS's Children's Tiptoe Fund | 2089 Christian Relief Fund |
| 2046 Advocates International | 2021 Christian Relief Services |
| 2054 American Self-Help Foundation | 2022 Compassion International Incorporated |
| 2044 Aid to Children, Youth and Families | 2021 Engineering Ministries International |
| 2007 AIDS Care Fund | 2022 Family Research Council |
| 2089 Alcohol & Drug Recovery Fund | 2052 Fellowship of Christian Athletes |
| 2005 Alliance Defend Fund | 2067 Focus on the Family |
| 2059 American Family Association | 2044 Food for the Hungry, Inc. |
| 2080 Americans Caring for Children Worldwide | 2099 Home School Foundation |
| 2001 Association for Christian Conference, Teaching & Service (ACCTS) | 2086 International Christian Concern |
| 2022 Association of Gospel | 2090 Kids for the Kingdom |
| 2099 Awana Clubs International | 2041 Life Tech, Inc. |
| 2007 Baptist World Alliance | 2071 Mercy Ships |
| 2003 Bible League | 2072 Mexican Medical |
| 2016 Billy Graham Evangelical Association | 2040 Military Community Youth Ministries |
| 2010 Blessings International | 2037 Mission Aviation Fellowship |
| 2005 Colcord International | 2014 Moody Bible Institute |
| 2004 Campus Crusade for Christ's Great Commission Foundation | 2034 MPFS International |
| 2004 Campus Crusade for Christ's Great Commission Foundation | 2017 Navigators, The |
| 2004 Campus Crusade for Christ's Great Commission Foundation | 2018 Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Inc. |
| 2004 Campus Crusade for Christ's Great Commission Foundation | 2019 Officers' Christian Fellowship of the USA |
| 2062 Care Net | 2039 Operation Blessing International Relief and Development Corp. |
| 2082 Child Abuse Intervention Fund | 2039 Prison Fellowship International |
| 2020 Children's International | 2021 Prison Fellowship Ministries |
| 2051 Children's Christian Hunger Network | 2044 Promise Keepers |
| 2026 Children's Food Fund/World Emergency Relief | 2068 Samaritan's Purse |
| 2084 Children's Hope Chest | 2048 Senior Care Fund |
| 2027 Children's Hunger Relief Fund | 2044 Society of St. Andrew |
| 2043 Children's Survival Fund | 2095 Voice of the Martyrs, The |
| 2020 Christian Blind Mission International | 2025 World Council of Churches (WCC) |
| 2028 Christian Broadcasting Network, The | 2076 Worldwide Christian Schools |
| 2041 Christian Foundation for Children and Aging | 2029 Worldwide Bible Translators |
| 2033 Christian Legal Society | 2029 Youth Life |

"...security comes from within...and the security of all men is founded upon the security of the individual."

-M. Hall

www.christianservicecharities.org CFC# 2000

Human rights report rips U.S. procedures

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — At least 11 al-Qaida suspects have "disappeared" in U.S. custody and some have allegedly been tortured in their undisclosed locations, according to a report released Monday by Human Rights Watch.

The prisoners are likely being held outside the United States without access to the Red Cross or any oversight of their treatment, the report states. In some cases, the U.S. will not even acknowledge the prisoners are in custody.

The prisoners include the alleged architect of the Sept. 11 attacks, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, as well as Abu Zubaydah, who is believed to be a close aide to Osama bin Laden. Other prisoners profiled are Ramzi Binalshibh, who allegedly could have succeeded in obtaining a U.S. visa, and Ridwan Ismudiman, known as Hambali, an alleged al-Qaida ally in Southeast Asia.

In refusing to disclose the prisoners' whereabouts or acknowledge the detentions, Human Rights Watch claims, the U.S. government has violated international law, international treaties and the Geneva Convention. The group calls on the government to bring all the prisoners "under the protection of the law."

"I think the U.S. demeans itself when it adopts the philosophy that the ends justify the means in the fight against terror," said Reed Brody, special counsel with Human Rights Watch.

CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield declined to comment on the report, given that the agency has not seen its contents.

A U.S. counterterrorism official, speaking to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity, said CIA policies and procedures on detention and debriefings have been the subject of "very careful" scrutiny.

"Close attention has been paid to ensuring that these policies are lawful," the official said.

The report — titled "The United States' 'Disappeared': The CIA's Long-term 'Ghost Detainees'" — acknowledges that many of the prisoners have provided valuable intelligence to U.S. officials.

But it also cites reports that some detainees have lied under pressure to please their interrogators.

Human Rights Watch has no firsthand knowledge of the treatment of these detainees. Much of the report stems from press accounts that have cited unnamed government sources acknowledging the torture or mistreatment of detainees.

Clergy abuse claims

LOS ANGELES — Hundreds of sexual abuse claims targeting the Roman Catholic Church in California have converged into one of the most complex civil litigation cases the state's judicial system has ever faced.

More than 850 alleged victims are suing defendants throughout the state, with millions of dollars in potential settlements at stake in a legal battle that involves more than 300 attorneys and dozens of church insurers. The scope is so vast that the lawsuits have been lumped geographically into three consolidated cases, known simply as Clergy I, Clergy II and Clergy III.

After nearly two years, the pace of the complicated legal drama is finally starting to accelerate. Some trial dates have been set, Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles is expected to be deposed by year's end in cases related to his tenure in the Stockton and Fresno dioceses, and a hearing on public access to internal church documents is scheduled for Wednesday.

Legal analysts and attorneys agree that the developments, all of which involve Northern California cases, will affect settlement negotiations that have dragged on for months in Southern California — though exactly how is less certain.

Trials in a handful of Northern California cases, scheduled for

March, May and June, could prompt settlements beforehand. Others say that, if there are a few multimillion-dollar jury verdicts, they could chill the ongoing talks in Southern California by giving plaintiffs inflated expectations and exhausting church resources.

New volcano dome

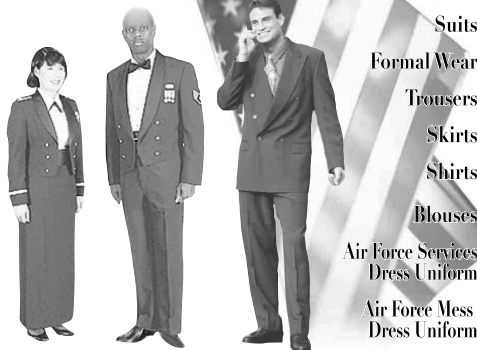
SEATTLE — Magma that has been rising inside Mount St. Helens finally pushed its way to the surface Tuesday and formed a new lava dome just behind the existing one in the volcano's crater, after weeks of earthquakes and steam eruptions.

The quakes subsided as the new lava emerged and cooled in the open air, suggesting molten rock from deep inside the Earth had found the path of least resistance by going around the old dome, said hydrologist Joe Major with the U.S. Geological Survey's Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Wash.

Unlike the dramatic rivers of red-hot lava from Hawaii's volcano, St. Helens' extrusion of new rock was subtle and difficult to see from outside the crater. A lazy plume of steam rose slowly from the mountain for much of Tuesday, and word of the eruption came at a USGS news conference. The last dome-building activity at St. Helens began in the months after its deadly May 1980 eruption and lasted six years.

From The Associated Press

Experience the personalized touch of a custom tailor at affordable prices



ELM Custom Tailors will be at your

Yokota YCC

October 12th - 24th

AAFES
CONCESSIONAIRE
aafes.com...open all the time!



DOD urges overseas GIs to vote absentee

From wire reports

As part of a top-level policy aimed at getting active service members to the polls, the Pentagon has designated this week, Oct. 11-15, as "Absentee Voting Week." Every military unit has been assigned a "voting assistance officer" to help would-be military voters in the process.

Demand for overseas absentee ballots is up more than 60 percent from the 2000 presidential election, according to the Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program. While it's not known how much of that increase is for military personnel, the election is a hot topic on the bases and at the front.

"We've had discussions about it on shift, on post, all the time — fairly heated discussions," said Ben Thierthall, 22, an Air Force Senior Airman in Sacramento, Calif. "We're not supposed to do that, but it's definitely happening."

All told, there are 2.3 million members of the active and reserve armed services, and they vote — 69 percent participated in the 2000 election, according to Defense Department numbers, compared with 51 percent of the overall eligible population.

Significant numbers of uniformed voters are registered in swing states such as Florida, which has more than 159,000 people in military service.

That's a large enough number to decide an election, as in 2000, when absentee military voters helped George W. Bush win a recount in Florida that was marked by Republican charges that the Democrats were trying to keep out military ballots, a charge the Democrats denied.

With a push from Congress, the Pentagon is going to great lengths to ensure that U.S. servicemen can vote this year, wherever they are. And with foreign policy, the Iraq war and terrorism among the top campaign issues, more fighting men and women are expected to have their say in who will be commander in chief.

But whether a significant number of military votes will go uncounted, as they did in Florida in 2000, remains an open question.

That's because despite the Pentagon's effort to inform troops about how to vote, the military remains hobbled by a cumbersome, mostly paper-based system for voting across the globe.

Plans for all-electronic, Internet-based voting were scrapped earlier this year because of security concerns, and the Defense Department has scrambled to assemble a system for expanded balloting by fax and e-mail.

But not all states have signed on to all parts of the plan, leaving a mishmash of electoral regulations, procedures and deadlines outlined in a 379-page voter assistance guide for military personnel.



Army Sgt. George Scheufele fills out an absentee ballot while voting in the American presidential and congressional election while at Camp Eagle in Baghdad on Oct. 6. Scheufele, 24 and voting for the first time, said that the military's voter registration drive had made it easy for him to participate. Scheufele is from Harrington, Del. and is with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Eighteen states missed a deadline recommended by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to mail overseas absentee ballots at least 45 days before the election.

The delays result from late primaries, disputes over whether Ralph Nader should be on the ballot and fights over initiatives such as a same-sex marriage ban.

That has put even more pressure on military voters to cast ballots quickly to ensure they arrive in time to be counted.

The supervisor of the voter registration process in Iraq says all but a few dozen of the more than 134,000 troops stationed there have been handed absentee ballot applications.

"We had a goal of 100 percent contact," said Army Capt. Ken DeCelle of Alameda, Calif. "We got to 99.98 percent."

"People are more confident that their vote will count this time," he said. "Everybody is so worried

about what happened in 2000, that if there is the smallest hint of something going bad, they squash it immediately."

But whether a soldier mails in a ballot application, receives a ballot, fills it in correctly and sends it to the right place with a timely postmark is something beyond DeCelle's control. "We do not take it to the mailbox for them," he said.

Ballots that do make it to the mailbox probably will have a relatively quick trip home. Within the Military Postal Service Agency, ballots have priority for overseas shipment, according to Assistant Deputy Director Mark DeDomenic. "If any mail moves, this stuff will move first," he said.

On the domestic side, the U.S. Postal Service has promised to ship outgoing and incoming ballots via overnight mail between military overseas shipping stations in New York, San Francisco and Miami and more than 5,700 local elections boards, spokesman Jim Quirk said.

Republicans predict that their traditional advantage among military voters will hold for a candidate who has declared himself a war president. Democrats, who have nominated Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts this year, see the casualties and hardships of Iraq turning average enlisted troops, and even some junior officers, against Bush.

The Chicago Tribune and San Francisco Chronicle contributed to this story.

Deployed? You Can Still Earn Your Degree

11,000 American Military University students are studying right now in 110 countries

Meets your schedule

- 100% online classes go with you, wherever you go
- Monthly class starts
- No set login times; access e-classroom anytime during the week

Affordable

- Zero cost tuition for active duty military eligible for TA
- No book costs with AMU grant for undergrads earning academic credit
- No application or technology fees
- In-depth evaluation of transcripts and training for academic credit

Over 50 Bachelor's, Master's Programs

- * Security Management
- * Homeland Security
- * Criminal Justice
- * Transportation & Logistics Mgt
- * Strategic Intelligence
- * Business Management



Learn more at www.apus.edu/AMU
or email info@apus.edu

The Ultimate Weapon is an Educated Mind

AMERICAN MILITARY UNIVERSITY, 111 West Congress Street, Charles Town, WV 25414 1-877-468-8268, Menu Option 2



Shop New Wave Bedroom Suites for a good night's sleep!

Choose from New Wave Bedroom Suites' great selection of pillowtop mattresses, pillow top waterbed mattresses, furniture and accessories

Plus!

1. Get a free value-pack futon cover with purchase of a futon
2. Get a free sheet set with mattress purchase

***** Good through month of October *****

In-home layaway and delivery available

New Wave Bedroom Suites is open daily 10-6
Located near the AAFES Furniture Store on Yokota AB
DSN 225-6379

AAFES
CONCESSIONAIRE

HIGH QUALITY HOMES

From an English-speaking Realty

6BDR HSE Yokohama ¥500,000  Large house (3,349 sqft) with mixture of traditional Japanese and modern Western styles. 30 mins. drive to Yokosuka NB, pkg for 2 cars incl.	4BDR HSE Kugenuma Kaigan ¥395,000  Located on Rt. 134 in Fujisawa near the coast. Brand new unit with western style, refrigerator, oven, dishwasher, 2 pkg incl.	4BDR APT Seya ¥205,000  15 min. drive from Atsugi base. 107.44 sqft (1,165.79 sqft), pkg incl. quiet neighborhood.
3BDR HSE Kamakura ¥320,000  Very large house (1,455 sqft) with beautiful garden. 100 sqft, open incl. 2 full bathrooms, pkg for 2 cars incl.	3BDR HSE Mutsuura ¥280,000  1,580 sqft, beautiful garden, wood deck for BBQ. 25 min. drive to Yokosuka NB, 6 min. walk to Kofuku, Mutsuura Sta., pkg incl.	2BDR Townhouse Yokohama ¥230,000  100 sqft, dishwasher oven incl. 181 sqft, only 4 years old, pkg incl. 15 min. walk from JR Yamate Sta.

KEN Ken Corporation 0120-045-054
Yokohama Branch
168-1 Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama 231-0023

Visit www.kencorp.co.jp for more listings
For more information on these homes and more, call Ms. Yamaguchi toll free in English

Bush, Kerry on the attack in run-up to final debate

By PETE YOST

The Associated Press

DENVER — In a last-minute flurry of accusations before their final debate, President George W. Bush told supporters that Democratic challenger John Kerry cannot pay for his proposed domestic programs without a tax increase. Kerry, meanwhile, tried to tie Bush to record oil prices.

Bush campaigned Tuesday in the conservative heart of Colorado. Kerry had no public appearances planned Tuesday, using the day to prepare for the candidates' final debate on Wednesday in Arizona.

"As much as he's tried to obscure it," Kerry is a confirmed liberal, Bush said Tuesday. The presidential debates have "showed differences between the senator and me on issues ranging from jobs to taxes to health care to the war on terror," said the president, who underscored the importance that health care could play in the debate in Tempe, Arizona.

Bush said he has the answers to fix the health care system and that he won't wreck the federal budget in doing so.

He stressed the need for growth of community health centers to serve the poor and said the newly enacted legislation to re-vamp Medicare is helping senior citizens. He said Kerry's proposed changes would put millions

of people looking for health care into "a government program."

"With a straight face he tried to tell Americans that ... the government has nothing to do with it," Bush said.

On Monday, Kerry lashed out at a president who has taken to calling the Democrat a tax-and-spend liberal with a 20-year Senate record of voting in favor of tax increases.

The record price of oil "means a lot more profit for this president's friends in the oil industry. But for most middle class Americans, the Bush tax increase is a tax increase that they can't afford," Kerry said in New Mexico.

Bush, also campaigning in New Mexico, ridiculed Kerry for saying in an interview published Sunday in The New York Times Magazine, "We have to get back to the place we were, where terrorists are not the focus of our lives but they're a nuisance."

"I couldn't disagree more," the president said. "Our goal is to reduce terror to some acceptable level of nuisance. Our goal is to defeat terror by staying on the offensive."

The Kerry campaign counterattacked, circulating a 2-year-old comment from Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser in the first Bush administration, who said the United States can break the back of terrorism "so that it is a horrible nuisance, and not a paralyzing influence."

Always close to you.

Stay connected with Vodafone

Conveniently located on base Payment in dollars Open 7 days a week

Yokosuka Atsugi Sasebo New Sanno Yokota Misawa Zama Iwakuni



Vodafone Prepaid Cellular Phone



Spinal cord research found its champion in Christopher Reeve

BY MARILYN MARCHIONE

The Associated Press

By the time he died, Christopher Reeve had at last "escaped the cape" — he had become bigger than the Superman character he portrayed on screen.

Reeve championed cutting-edge research into spinal cord injuries, offering himself as a guinea pig for new therapies and vowing he would one day walk again. He never did. But his dream is now a plausible one for thousands of others who are paralyzed.

"The biggest hope is in biological research to allow the spinal cord to heal itself and even regenerate. That's just over the horizon but closer than ever before. Most people feel within the next 10 to 15 years, somewhere within our lifetimes," said Dr. Jack Ziegler, president of the American Spinal Injury Association.

Some even thought it would come in time for Reeve.

"I thought it was going to happen," said Dr. Doug Kerr, a Johns Hopkins University neurologist who works with stem cells — controversial research that Reeve advocated with superhuman strength even as he wheeled through a respirator from his wheelchair.

"It was Star Wars science fiction, this concept of rewiring the nervous system," but Reeve thrust this field forward by leaps and bounds," Kerr said.

Reeve died Sunday after developing a serious bloodstream infection from a bed sore, a common problem for paralyzed people. He went into cardiac arrest Saturday at his home in Pound Ridge, N.Y., then fell into a coma, dying the next day at a hospital. His wife, Dana, and other family members were with him.

As an actor and a man, Reeve embodied strength and athleticism and performed his own movie stunts, including his 1978 starring role as Superman. It made him famous but he longed to, as he often put it, "escape the cape" and take on other characters. He played a crippled Vietnam veteran in the Broadway play "Fifth of July," an astronaut-traveler in the movie "Somewhere in Time," and an aspiring playwright in the suspense "Deathtrap."

But real life — not a movie — gave him the best opportunity to shed the cape and show extraordinary human powers. Reeve suffered one of the most severe spinal injuries possible when he was thrown from his horse and broke his neck during an equestrian competition in May 1995.

Aided by access to the best medical care available, Reeve endured hours of therapy to allow him to breathe for longer periods without a respirator while tenaciously seeking a cure that would allow him to walk again.

"I refuse to allow a disability to determine how I live my life. I don't mean to be reckless, but set-



AP photos

Above: "Superman" memorabilia is displayed Monday at the Superman Museum in Metropolis, Ill. Below: "Superman" star Christopher Reeve became a real hero for some as a force for spinal cord research.



ting a goal that seems a bit daunting actually is very helpful toward recovery," he said.

He sparked hope even in many skeptics in 2000, when he was able to move an index finger. Motivated by success, he thrust himself even harder into workouts to strengthen his legs and arms.

Electrical stimulation of his muscles allowed him to regain sensation in some other parts of his body.

Treatments advanced, too. Improvements in surgical techniques helped stabilize the spine more, and electrical stimulation and exercise therapy have helped many, according to Ziegler.

As Reeve transformed his body, he morphed into an advocate, first for better benefits for people with long-term disabilities, and then for science to help the 250,000 Americans who suffer paralysis. The Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation has given \$40 million to spinal cord research since he merged it with the American Paralysis Foundation in 1999.

Some of that has been for embryonic stem cell research, a promising but contentious field of medicine that the Bush administration has severely restricted because it involves destroying embryos. Scientists think these early, all-purpose cells can be coaxed to form nerves and specialized tissues to repair a host of woes.

Human skeleton found in N.Y. lot

NEW YORK — Authorities discovered part of a human skeleton in a vacant lot believed for years to be a graveyard for people ordered killed by the late mob boss John Gotti and other gangsters.

FBI spokesman James Margolin said the bones discovered Monday in Queens included a pelvic bone, a piece of a jawbone, ribs and leg bones. Also found were a watch and a pair of glasses. A forensic anthropologist was to examine the bones Tuesday.

In 1981, the body of Bonanno crime family captain Alphonse "Sonny Red" Indelicato was discovered at the lot by children who spotted his arm poking through the soil. No other bodies were found, but

some officials believed mob burials at the lot continued.

Last week, FBI agents and police detectives acting on a tip from an undercover informant began searching the lot for the remains of a half dozen or more victims dating back two decades or more. They include a man who vanished after he accidentally struck and killed the 12-year-old son of the "Dapper Don" in 1980.

The suspected burial ground is situated near John F. Kennedy International Airport. Dilapidated homes, abandoned cars and other empty lots dot the marshy area.

Gotti was sentenced to life in prison for racketeering and murder in 1992 and died behind bars in 2002.

From The Associated Press

Get Into
High Gear
with **Low Rates.**

Auto Loan Rates
as low as
3.37%
APR

Visit one of our banking centers for more information.

CommunityBank

www.DoDCommunityBank.com

Powered by **Bank of America** Member FDIC

Feeling Better?

Thanks to **Medical Research**, effective treatments and cures are only a fingertip and glass of water away.

Medical Research Charities

Combining forces. Finding cures.

8001 Braddock Road, Suite 310
Springfield, VA 22151
PH: (703) 764-3140 • FAX: (703) 764-3375
www.medicalresearchcharities.org

- 1709 Advanced Cancer Research Center
- 1713 AIDS Community Research Initiative of America
- 1704 AIDS Research Alliance of America
- 1742 Alpha-1 Foundation
- 1701 Alzheimer's and Aging Research Center
- 1702 American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine
- 1746 American Association of Diabetes Educators Education & Research Foundation
- 1705 American College of Rheumatology Research and Education Foundation
- 1734 Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
- 1707 Brain Tumor Foundation of America
- 1729 Breast Cancer Research Foundation, The
- 1711 Cancer Immunology Research Foundation
- 1719 Cancer Research Fund of the Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Foundation
- 1722 Cancer Treatment Research Foundation
- 1747 City of Hope
- 1703 Diabetes National Research Group
- 1714 Foundation Fighting Blindness
- 1716 Glaucoma Research Foundation
- 1712 Guillain-Barre Syndrome Foundation International
- 1718 Hope Heart Institute, The
- 1706 Infectious Disease Science Center
- 1720 Interstitial Cystitis Association of America
- 1742 Lyme Disease Foundation
- 1745 Marrow Foundation, The
- 1721 Multiple Sclerosis National Research Institute
- 1717 National Alliance for Autism Research
- 1730 National Eating Disorders Association
- 1728 Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation
- 1710 Prostate Cancer Foundation (formerly CAP CURE)
- 1725 United Leukodystrophy Foundation, The
- 1723 Y Foundation, The

CFC #1700

The Best Call For Anyone In Uniform.



\$24.99 a month for unlimited calls to the U.S.A. and Canada

Get The Most From Your Broadband Connection

Vonage is a better way to call. Just plug your existing touchtone phone into a high speed Internet connection like a cable or DSL modem and you are ready to start saving. With Vonage you can call any phone number, anywhere in the world and save big. Our most popular plan offers unlimited calling in the U.S.A. and Canada for only \$24.99 a month. Plus, our international rates are always low. With Vonage you will save money on every call every month.

Lots Of Free Features

Vonage believes that your phone bill should not have any hidden charges or surprises.

That's why our calling plans always include a host of free features that you want most like:

- free voicemail
- free caller ID with name
- free call waiting
- free call forwarding
- free call transfer
- and much, much more

Changing The Way You Think About Phone Service

Think new and you'll think Vonage. You can talk as long as you want with one low monthly fee. You can pick an area code outside of where you live. You can take your phone number with you when you move or you travel, even overseas. You can call any other Vonage customer anywhere in the world for free. What's more, you can listen to your voicemails on line and you see all of your call records, your calling activity and your charges in real time with our handy online dashboard. All of this is available now, with no contracts and no fine print from Vonage.

Order Now And Save Even More

For a limited time Vonage is offering members of the military a free month of Vonage service for signing up. It's a \$24.99 value for acting now. And when you do become a Vonage customer you have a chance to save even more by referring your friends and relatives for Vonage service. Why not sign up today?

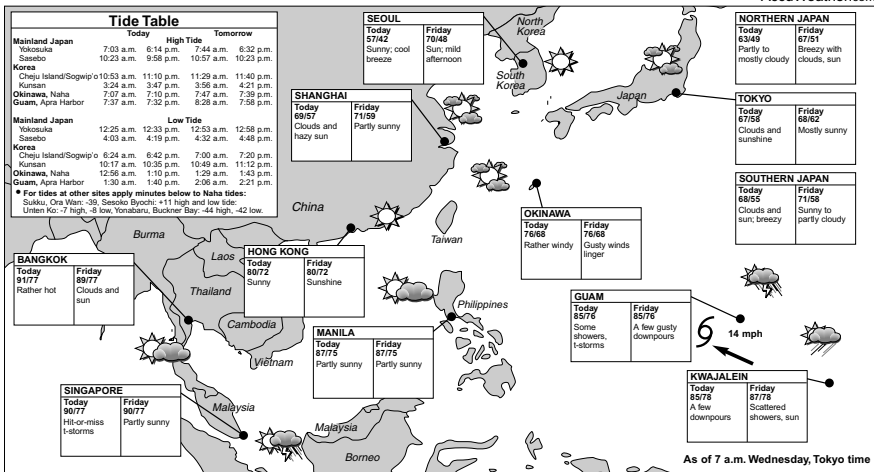
VONAGE
THE BROADBAND PHONE COMPANY®

For more information, visit www.vonage.com/military or call 1-877-4VONAGE

The Pacific Forecast

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2004

AccuWeather.com



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 73, low 59.
 Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 61, low 52.

KADENA

Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 78, low 70.
 Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 78, low 70.

SEOUL

Saturday: Partly sunny, high 71, low 47.
 Sunday: Partly sunny, high 70, low 46.

MANILA

Saturday: Partly sunny, high 87, low 74.
 Sunday: Partly sunny, high 87, low 73.

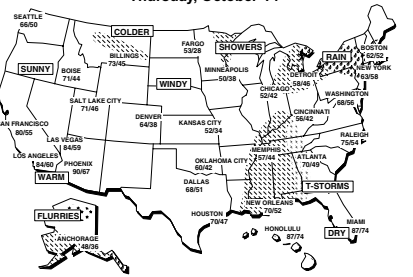
HAGATNA

Saturday: Thunderstorms, high 87, low 74.
 Sunday: Thunderstorms, high 87, low 74.

Tuesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	67/46	Los Angeles	82/61
Amarillo	71/49	Little Rock	70/52
Anchorage	51/35	Louisville	69/54
Ashville	76/55	Miami	87/74
Baltimore	68/40	Milwaukee	64/47
Birmingham	77/57	Nashville	70/56
Bismarck	71/40	New York	67/54
Boise	72/42	Omaha	66/44
Boston	60/50	Orlando	82/68
Brownsville	90/70	Philadelphia	69/46
Buffalo	65/44	Phoenix	92/70
Burlington	58/44	Pittsburgh	60/49
Charleston, SC	81/65	Portland, OR	75/50
Charlotte	71/58	Portland, ME	60/41
Cleveland	64/44	Salt Lake City	69/46
Columbus, OH	69/48	St. Louis	58/50
Duluth	64/44	San Antonio	82/66
El Paso	75/54	San Diego	76/63
Cleveland	64/40	San Juan	91/76
Helena	64/38	Tampa	85/71
Indianapolis	64/50	Tulsa	60/51
Jacksonville	82/66	Washington	70/51
Kansas City	56/48	Wichita	65/50

Thursday, October 14



U.S. Extended Forecast

Low pressure will track into the Great Lakes Thursday. Rain will drench much of the Ohio Valley and mid-Atlantic states. Meanwhile, New England will stay dry with some sunshine. The Southeast will have windy and cool conditions despite some sunshine. Dry weather is expected across the Plains. A few showers may occur in the northern Rockies. High pressure will keep the Pacific Northwest dry and warm. Cool and damp conditions will be the rule in the Northeast and Midwest Friday and Saturday. Sunshine will accompany dry weather in the Southeast. Storms may bring some rain to the Northwest; otherwise, the West will experience more rain-free weather. Texas and the southern Plains will have beautiful weather.

Thursday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	91/77	Wakani	65/50
Beijing	69/53	Kadena AB	76/68
Camp Casey	59/39	Kunsan AB	60/45
Christchurch	69/46	Kwajalein	85/78
Diego Garcia	82/74	Manila	87/75
Hagatna	85/76	Misawa AB	62/46
Hanoi	80/72	Osan	60/40
Hong Kong	80/72	Perth	67/54
Honolulu	87/74	Pusan	64/49

Thursday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	86/73	Buenos Aires	80/62	Nairobi	81/52
Athens	65/55	Cairo	89/64	New Delhi	82/56
Auckland	72/60	Cancun	80/68	Oslo	42/29
Baghdad	96/60	Cape Town	73/60	Paris	48/31
Barbados	91/75	Geneva	64/37	Rio de Janeiro	80/65
Barcelona	62/50	Istanbul	42/39	Rome	66/48
Berlin	50/37	Jerusalem	82/61	St. Petersburg	48/38
Bermuda	80/71	Johannesburg	74/54	Stockholm	49/36
Brussels	53/36	Katol	46/35	Warsaw	49/33



Sell it.....Free!

Advertise your car, truck, motorcycle, boat, or bicycle in Stars and Stripes. No charge! On air! Up to 7 lines of copy for 21 days - free! Call Classified today at 225-3276 or email us at classified@starsandstripes.com. Individuals only - no dealers!

Now Homeless Veterans
STARS & STRIPES
www.starsandstripes.com

Park budget woes

CA SACRAMENTO — California has stopped acquiring land for state parks for the foreseeable future because it cannot afford to staff and maintain new parkland, according to a newspaper report.

Facing a budget deficit next year of up to \$10 billion, state public works officials quietly decided in March to stop accepting or buying new parkland, the San Jose Mercury News reported in Saturday editions.

Following outcries from environmentalists and conservationists, however, the California Public Works Board agreed Friday to add 1,000 acres of redwoods to Castle Rock State Park in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

But in a compromise with park supporters, the board also decided to keep the newly acquired acreage unmarked and closed to the public to save money.

Trying to free freighter

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — Workers pumped fuel from a 600-foot freighter in an attempt to refloat the vessel after it ran aground near a South Florida port.

The Panamanian-flagged Federal Pescadores, transporting cement, ran aground Wednesday about a half-mile offshore while attempting to anchor at Port Everglades. It was carrying 588 tons of bunker oil and 105 tons of diesel fuel.

The Coast Guard said there were no signs of pollution from the fuel transfer and there were no injuries.

The Florida Marine Research Institute said divers would survey a reef in the area to determine if there was any damage.

The grounding was under investigation.

Vintage planes destroyed

MI VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP — Fire swept through an aviation museum hangar that housed vintage aircraft, destroying the building and the planes inside.

No injuries were reported in the fire Saturday at the Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run Airport, officials said. Several historic planes that were parked outside the hangar were unscathed.

The cause of the fire at the airport, 25 miles west of Detroit was not known.

A spokesman for the Wayne County Airport Authority, which owns and operates the airport, did not immediately return a telephone message.

The Yankee Air Museum includes functioning historic aircraft, fixed displays and historic artifacts, according to the Web site. Its centerpiece was the 1941 hangar that burned Saturday night, which was part of a plant built by Henry Ford to produce World War II bombers on assembly lines like those used at automotive factories.

Diver attacked by shark

HI KAHULUI — A diver from Honolulu was hospitalized in critical condition after being attacked by a shark in waters off Molokai's south shore Saturday,



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Maui County fire officials said.

The man was diving at the Kupeke Fishing Pond off Pukoo when he was attacked around 12:40 p.m. near a wall about 200 yards from the beach access, authorities said.

"He was diving alone and he had got bitten by a shark," Maui County Assistant Fire Chief Frank Tan said. "He was screaming, some residents and bystanders came to his aid, saw that he had an injury and called 911. He was bitten front to back in his shoulder area."

Authorities said the man, whose name and age weren't immediately released, was taken by helicopter to Maui Memorial Hospital.

Mom's neglect charges

NV LAS VEGAS — A woman has been charged with child neglect more than 18 months after her two daughters were stabbed during a break-in while she was out gambling.

Tamara Ann Bergeron was charged Friday with 18 counts of child neglect and abuse. Her boyfriend, Robert John Schmidt, was also charged.

Authorities said 11-year-old Brittney Bergeron and 3-year-old Kristyanna Cowan were stabbed by two teenagers who broke into their mobile home when Bergeron and Schmidt were out gambling in January 2003.

Cowan died in the attack and Brittney Bergeron was paralyzed.

Police said the teens, who have since been arrested, were retaliating after being ripped off during a drug deal with Bergeron and Schmidt.



Pumpkin princess

Dressed as Cinderella, Erin Hunter, 4, makes sure she chooses the perfect pumpkin in a patch among many during Pumpkin-Palooza in Michigan.

Bergeron's attorney did not immediately return a call for comment.

Protest at parade

CO DENVER — More than 200 sign-waving and chanting protesters were arrested Saturday after blocking a Columbus Day parade for more than an hour, police said.

Police said they began making arrests after ordering the group of about 600 protesters to leave when the parade was about a block away.

The 230 protesters who were arrested were charged with loitering and disobedience to a lawful order.

There were no reports of violence or injuries.

Police said the protesters, many of whom were American Indians, gathered at the state Capitol, then marched to the parade route in downtown Denver.

Most carried signs, including one that read "Not Genocide, Celebrate Pride" and another showing a crossed out picture of Columbus with the word "savages" over it.

Adam K. Becenti, a University of Colorado-Boulder student of Navajo descent, said the protest was meant to educate people about the inaccuracies in history books.

But Carter Barnard, a member of the Sons of Italy in America, said the protesters had no right to delay the event.

Six killed in arson fire

PA PHILADELPHIA — A fast-moving arson fire killed six people in a rowhouse before dawn Saturday, four of them children, police said.

Authorities concluded that the fire was set deliberately after police dogs smelled an accelerant, and have ruled the deaths homicides.

The house in the North Philadelphia neighborhood was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived. Five of the victims died at the scene.

The sixth, a 2-year-old boy, died after being taken to the hospital, officials said.

"The heat was very intense, even for the firefighters trying to make their attempts at rescues," police Capt. Richard Ross said.

The victims were two adults and four children, ranging in age from 2 to 12, fire officials said.

Really bad trip to dentist

CA SAN DIEGO — A tiger named Awang Relak could help keep his species from becoming extinct, zoo officials say, but first he needs to do something about his teeth.

The 240-pound Indochinese tiger was anesthetized and strapped to a medical table at the San Diego Zoo on Friday so a dentist could clean out pockets of infection and pry smaller teeth away from larger ones.

While that was going on a veterinarian was probing the 3-year-old's private parts, making sure his sperm count is good enough that he'll be able to mate with female tigers when he's older.

"He was a fabulous patient," said veterinarian Nancy Boedekker.



Frightfully busy season

Vicki Rimkus prepares one of the mannequins displayed Thursday at Cedar Point amusement park near Sandusky, Ohio. Theme parks nationwide are transforming themselves into dark and spooky Halloween attractions at a time of year that once was a slow period but now is one of the busiest.



Soaring to new heights

Garrett Tomlinson, 15, of Village Mills, Texas, turns a flip as he springs through the air on "The Powerjump," at the 35th annual Texas Rice Festival in Winnie, Texas.



Colorful costume

Lynn Rosskamp gets Norbert, her pet rat, ready for the costume contest during the RatsPacNW Fall Rat Show on Mercer Island, Wash.



Seeing double

Idaho Junior Miss candidates are reflected in a mirror as they rehearse with Dana Smith in Pocatello, Idaho, for a dance routine at the finals.



A great way to travel

The Conway Scenic Railroad makes its way through

Crafton Notch in Hart's Location, N.H. The line at one time was used for freight but now is used for tourist travel, as are many other railroad lines in the Northeast.



Time to hang

Sea lions and seals hang out on the docks at the East Mooring Basin on Seals in Astoria, Ore. When the salmon feed upriver, the sea lions move to the docks several times a year.



Walking for a cause

Hundreds of supporters take to the streets on the campus of Central Texas College to show their support for the American Heart Association during the annual Heart Walk in Killeen, Texas.

Police officer cleared

TX BAYTOWN — An internal investigation by the Baytown Police Department has determined an officer did nothing wrong when he used his Taser gun against a woman while arresting her.

This is the third time that Micah Aldred, 28, has been cleared of any wrongdoing in the case. The Baytown Sun reported Sunday.

In January, a Harris County jury acquitted Aldred on charges of using excessive force against Naomi Autin during a dispute at her brother's home.

After he was acquitted, Aldred was reinstated back into the department following five months of paid leave.

The jury's decision came after a federal ruling by the U.S. Department of Justice that Aldred did not violate Autin's civil rights.

She accused him of unnecessarily zapping her with his stun gun three times in July 2003, then throwing her against a pole, which left her with a head gash that required stitches.

Nazi deportation case

PA SHARON, Pa. — A man facing deportation because he served as a guard at two Nazi concentration camps said he was forced to join the unit that guarded the camps or face death.

The U.S. Department of Justice wants to revoke the citizenship of Anton Geisler, 79, a retired Pennsylvania steelworker who was born in Croatia. The department said Geisler hid his service in the Waffen SS from U.S. officials when he immigrated in 1956.

The department said Geisler was an armed guard at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Berlin from January to November 1943 before being transferred to the concentration camp at Buchenwald.

But Geisler, who does not deny he was a guard at the camps, said the U.S. visa application did not ask him to reveal his service and that the law did not require him to volunteer information.

In papers filed in federal court in Pittsburgh, Geisler also said he was drafted as a 17-year-old in German-occupied Yugoslavia in 1942 and that his service in the SS "was entirely involuntary and ... performed on pain of death."

Suit against filmmaker

NM SANTA FE — Three former high school classmates of "Dazed and Confused" director Richard Linklater have filed a lawsuit claiming they have suffered embarrassment and ridicule because of characters based on them in the movie.

The men — Bobby Wooderson, Andy Slater and Richard "Pink" Floyd — say Linklater did not get their permission before creating three characters in the 1993 cult classic sharing their surnames and likenesses.

The suit was filed Thursday in Santa Fe against Universal Studios, which released the film.

The movie follows the drug- and alcohol-fueled hijinks of teenagers on the last day of school in May 1976. The men said the negative characterizations in the film have made their lives miserable and caused their neighbors to

think poorly of them.

"We had fun in high school, but there is nothing true about that movie. Yet I am having to deal with it all the time," said Floyd, who works at a car dealership in Huntsville, Texas, where the men went to high school.

Ernest Freeman, one of the plaintiffs' attorneys, said Slater has also had problems because people make assumptions that he takes illegal drugs.

Officials charge suspect

MI DETROIT — The father of a 3-year-old beaten to death in an attack on her day care center was arrested Saturday, a day after he was named as the suspect in the rampage that also left two women hospitalized with gunshot wounds.

Bernard Kelly, 37, of Detroit, was taken into custody Saturday evening, Detroit Police Officer Jeremy Aguayo said. An arrest warrant for Kelly listed charges of murder, assault with intent to commit murder and felony firearms possession, The Detroit News reported Sunday.

Police initially reported that 3-year-old Stefanie Belue had been shot to death, but later said she was fatally beaten in the Sept. 28 attack.

The warrant came after one of the victims named Kelly as the assailant, Officer Glen Woods said.

Annette Rice, 41, the day care's operator, and Sherita Griggs, Rice's 22-year-old niece, were shot and critically wounded. Both remained hospitalized Saturday. Police said Griggs regained consciousness Friday and identified Kelly. Rice remained unconscious and in critical condition.

Players' rape charges

NJ NEWARK — Two football players accused of raping a 15-year-old schoolmate have been charged with sexual assault, authorities said.

The two Montclair High School players, ages 15 and 16, were charged with kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault, conspiracy and other charges, officials said. Their names were withheld because they are juveniles.

The two turned themselves in on Friday, said Montclair Police Chief David Sagah.

Sagah said the two boys picked up the female student on Monday, plus a third boy who is also a member of the football team, then drove to a park. The chief said the third boy, who is co-operating with police, left before the assault after becoming uncomfortable with the situation.

Montclair Superintendent of Schools Frank Alvarez said Friday that the two boys had been suspended from school and removed from the football team.

Tainted registration rolls

CO DENVER — Officials say some 6,000 prisoners and parolees are on the state's voter registration rolls, despite a state law that denies the vote to prisoners serving sentences or convicted felons who are on parole. Secretary of State Donetta Davidson said she plans to convene an emergency meeting this week of Colorado's 64 county clerks to stop prisoners and parolees from voting.

Photos and stories from wire reports



Monster Size



**VanCamp's
Dark Red
Kidney Beans**
Reg. \$.62
Sale \$.37



**Ranch Style
Black Beans**
15 oz.
Reg. \$.49
Sale \$.39



**W
R
Sa**



**VanCamp's
New Orleans
Kidney Beans**
Reg. \$.69
Sale \$.49



**Ranch Style
Blackeyed Peas**
15 oz.
Reg. \$.49
Sale \$.37



**Hunt's
Diced Tomato**
14.5 oz.
Reg. \$.79
Sale \$.59



**Ranch Style
Pinto Beans**
15 oz.
Reg. \$.49
Sale \$.37



**Libby's
Chicken
Vienna Sausage**
5 oz.
Reg. \$.43
Sale \$.29



Sp



**Libby's
Corned Beef
Hash**
Reg. \$1.32
Sale \$.89



**Libby's
Corned Beef**
Reg. \$1.31
Sale \$.99



**Kid Cuisine
Reg. \$1.60
Sale \$.95**



Swiss Miss Cocoa



**8ct. or 10 ct.
Envelopes**
Reg. \$1.51
Sale \$.99



**Swiss Miss Cocoa
Canisters**
39oz.
Reg. \$4.27
Sale \$3.29



Advertising is neither paid for, or sponsored by, the Def
The commissary is not responsible for errors.

Truckload Sale



Lesson Oil
128 oz.
Reg. \$6.71
Sale \$4.69



Pam
Original
Reg. \$2.42
Sale \$1.79



Healthy Choice
Soup, 15 oz.
Reg. \$1.50
Sale \$.99



Hunt's
Diced Tomatoes
10 oz.
Reg. \$.74
Sale \$.49



Chef Boyardee
Microwave Meals
7.5 oz.
Reg. \$.79
Sale
2 for \$1.50



Hunt's
Spaghetti Sauce
26.5 oz.
Reg. \$.98
Sale
2 for \$1.50



Hunt's
Tomato Paste
6 oz.
Reg. \$.39
Sale \$.29



Hunt's
Tomato Sauce
8 oz.
Reg. \$.25
Sale
5 for \$1.00



Eckrich
Sausage
16 oz.
Reg. 1.99
Sale \$1.69



Breyer's
Ice Cream
Black Pack
Reg. \$3.84
Sale \$2.89



Orville
Redenbacher's
3-pack Popcorn
Reg. \$1.88
Sale \$.95



Banquet
Homestyle
Bakes
Reg. \$3.49
Sale \$2.79



Banquet
Dessert
Bakes
Reg. \$2.79
Sale \$2.39



Commissary Agency or the Department of Defense.
Items may not be available in all commissaries.



STARS AND STRIPES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOMAS E. KELSEY, Publisher
JOHN D. PANASIEWICZ, General Manager, Pacific
LT. COL. DANIEL R. TODD, USAF, Commander

News and Editorial
DAVID MAZZARELLA, Editorial Director
DOUG CLAYTON, Managing Editor
ROBB GRONSTADT, Associate Editor
BROOKS E. BOWERS, Opinion Editor, Pacific
ED GROSZELSKI, Electronic Editor, Pacific
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS:
Chris Carlson, News Peter Pollock, Photo/Graphics
Brian Brown, Features Sean Morris, Sports
T.D. Fackell, Pacific

Addresses
U.S. MAIL: Unit 45002, APO 96337-5002
INTERNATIONAL MAIL: 23-17 Roppongi-7, Chome, Minato-ku,
Tokyo 106-0032, Japan
FAX: DSN 229-3132, ext. (+81) 811 3408-8936
E-mail: dsn229-3132@starsandstripes.com

Advertising: advertising@starsandstripes.com
Marketing: marketing@starsandstripes.com
Creative: creative@starsandstripes.com

CENTRAL OFFICE: 1494 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington
DC 20045-1301, Phone DSN 721-7133-4900 or civ.
fax (+1) 721-7133-4900, fax (+1) (202) 771-0889
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: David Mazzarella, 529 14th St NW, Suite
350, Washington, DC 20045-1301, Phone DSN 721-
7133-4900 or civ. fax (+1) 721-7133-4945
E-mail: mazzarella@starsandstripes.com

COMMERCIAL: Joe Briggs, 529 14th St NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC,
20045-1301, Phone civilian (+1) 304-6032, fax (+1)
(410) 364-8636; e-mail: jbriggs@starsandstripes.com

How to call us
GENERAL MANAGER: John D. Panasiewicz, (+1) (304) 9428
READERS' FORUM: DSN 229-3136; ext. (+81) 811 3408-8936
E-mail: letters@starsandstripes.com
STAFF: Dave Ormrod, DSN 745-3, fax (+81) 880
893-2702; e-mail: ormd@starsandstripes.com
For business, advertising and circulation numbers,
turn to the back of this issue.

News Bureaus
JAPAN
Japan Bureau Chief: Sid Acker, Unit 45002, APO 96337-5002,
tel DSN 229-3317 or civ. fax (+1) 811 3408-8936; fax (+1)
811 3408-8936; e-mail: dsn229-3317@starsandstripes.com

MIAMI: Jennifer H. Swan, tel DSN 229-2550; civ. (0170)
533-5181; ext. 229-2550; fax (+1) 304-9428-8936; fax
229-3847; e-mail: jhswan@starsandstripes.com

SEATTLE: Greg H. Smith, tel DSN 229-1126, PO AP
96332-1126, tel and fax DSN 229-3832;
e-mail: tyler@starsandstripes.com

Tokyo: John Gitter and editorial staff, DSN 229-3105
and 229-3132 or civ. (+81) 811 3408-8936; fax
229-3271; e-mail: gitter@starsandstripes.com

Yokosuka: Nancy Montgomery, tel DSN 241-2874 or civ.
(+81) 813 402-826; fax DSN 241-2876; e-mail:
nmontgomery@starsandstripes.com

Yokota: Camp Zuma: Fajal, Vince Little, Unit 5058 APO
96328-5058, tel DSN 229-2333; civ. (+1) 802-2511 ext.
59233 fax: 04 729-7132; e-mail: little@starsandstripes.com

Yokota: David Allen, Fred Zimmerman, Chiyomi Sumida and
editorial staff, DSN 721-7133; PO AP 96374, tel DSN
645-3807 or civ. (+81) 880 893-2702; fax DSN
645-9155; e-mail: okuburn@starsandstripes.com

Korea: Bureau Chief: Joseph Gordan, Unit 15334, APO
96326-1534, tel DSN 721-7132 or civ. (+82) 2
270-5334; e-mail: gordan@starsandstripes.com

Camp Red Cloud: Camp Casey, Staff Robinson, Address: Stars
and Stripes, c/o HMC 200, Unit 15041, APO 96268-0289,
tel (+1) 956-7134, e-mail: robb@starsandstripes.com

Otan Air Station: Camp Henshaw, Frankie Fisher, Unit 15334,
APO 96326-1534, tel DSN 721-7132 or civ. (+82) 2
641-4523; fax DSN 783-1032; e-mail: fisher@starsandstripes.com

Seoul: Tel Weaver and Hwang Han-yeon, Unit 15334, APO
96268-0422, tel DSN 15334, fax DSN 721-7132 or 721-7134,
ext. (+82) 2 270-7132/7134, fax DSN 721-7134;
e-mail: hwang@starsandstripes.com

WASHINGTON D.C.
Bureau editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,
Washington DC 20045-1301, tel (+1) (202) 771-0889;
e-mail: dickson@starsandstripes.com

Sandra Jones and Lisa Burgess, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,
Washington DC 20045-1301, tel (+1) (202) 695-4732;
fax: (+1) (703) 693-8366;
e-mail: jones@starsandstripes.com, burgess@starsandstripes.com

Stars and Stripes (USPS 417-500) is published daily (except
Christmas and New Year's) for 50 cents and \$1 Sunday by the Stars
and Stripes central office, 529 14th St NW, Suite 350, Washing-
ton DC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, Calif.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes,
Unit 45002, APO 96337-5002.

© European and American Stars and Stripes 2004
This newspaper is authorized for distribution by the Department of
Defense for members of the Military Services overseas. However,
the contents of the STARS AND STRIPES are unofficial, and are not to be con-
sidered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government,
including the Department of Defense or of the U.S. Pacific Command. As
a DOD newspaper, the STARS AND STRIPES may be distributed through offi-
cial channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to personnel in
official locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts
or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of De-
fense or the STARS AND STRIPES of the products or services advertised.
Products or services advertised in this publication shall be made avail-
able for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion,
sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affil-
iation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

STARS AND STRIPES WEB SITE: www.strips.com

Bad service for servicemembers

I would sure like to thank all those folks at Air and Air Force Exchange Service who decided to make sure our gas prices were the same as in the States. They were probably right in assuming that we would experience culture shock when we returned home and found a disparity in pumping prices between Okinawa and the United States. Maybe if they had been living overseas to have an unfair advantage over all those folks back home. Many people love living in strange lands but, the fact remains: they are far away from friends, relatives and the American way of life.

I would not mind the higher gas prices so much if I thought the services at the base gas stations would improve. A while back I went for an advertised "quick oil change, which in the States would take about 20 minutes, but I was told to leave my car and they would have it ready for me by the end of the day. I guess my definition of "quick" is somewhat different than theirs. I can't wait until I need new tires.

One of the complaints we hear about working conditions in the United States is that a lot of jobs are being outsourced in order to reduce the cost of business while improving customer service. Maybe if we outsourced the base gas stations to one of the large oil companies, such as Chevron Texaco, Royal Dutch/Shell or Exxon/Mobil, we just might get more service for our money.

Come to think of it, we could have Wal-Mart run our base exchanges, and Marriott International Inc. run bulleting. We already have Burger King and KFC franchises at the base exchanges.

I don't mind paying higher prices if it means better service, improved customer support and quality products. But please do not tell me you are doing me a favor when, in reality, nothing changes and my wallet gets smaller. I don't need that kind of help.

Clifton Jester
Wadena Air Base, Okinawa

Teed off at the Sunjam fees

Well, let's see. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service's gas is up to \$2.96/gallon, five-day CDS child care is at \$17.1, a half-gallon of milk is \$3.50. Would these prices cause any one alarm if such increases were unilaterally implemented with no explanation offered and no chance to comment?

Apparently membership reaction and input is not a concern to those who manage Sunjam Golf Club. Annual dues there have just skyrocketed by similar proportioned increase percentages as reflected in the above examples. The members there are being made to endure a maligned version of the federal mantra — pay more, enjoy it less — whether it be the dues in-
crease, poor tee time and waiting list allotment procedures, sloppy play or myriad other issues — without so much as a tip of

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values them as topics of importance in the lives of its readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity and content.

Send your letters to:
U.S. MAIL: Stars and Stripes
Readers' Forum
Stars and Stripes
Unit 45002
APO AP 96337-5002
Tokyo 106-0032

Via fax from Japan: (304) 938-8936;
DSN 229-3271

Via fax from outside Japan:
Country code +81 3-5408-8936;
DSN 229-3271

E-mail: letters@starsandstripes.com

the hat by the powers that be as they pass by.

Complain to the Advisory Golf Council, you say? If you could get its members to meet (apparently no meetings since April 2003) with the membership who they are supposed to serve, at Yongsan, during or after work/duty hours, I dare say that will be "when pigs fly." Any takers?

Quentin Walsh
Yongsan Garrison, South Korea

Nader, Democrats' scapegoat

I am getting sick of hearing people say it is stupid to support Ralph Nader because he has no chances of winning. It is stupid to vote for a candidate that is considered the "lesser of two evils." Saying that if you vote for Nader you are "throwing" your vote to President Bush does not make sense to me, considering that if I did not vote for Nader, I would most likely vote for Bush, not because I like him but because I am disgusted at the dirty tricks used by the Democrats (such as swelling Nader's convention then refusing to sign his petition), and their attempts to use minor technicalities to keep him off the ballot.

The Democrats should work on improving their campaign, so people do not feel the need to vote for a third party. If Sen. John Kerry was a capable candidate, he would not have to worry about losing votes. Kerry is hurting Nader's chances, not the other way around.

Cpl. Mike Curt
Futenma Marine Corps Air Station, Okinawa

AFN withheld gridiron history

My sons and I were looking forward to getting up at 2 a.m. to watch football over the weekend, until I read the schedule and I couldn't believe what I saw. I guess I just assumed that American Forces Network would carry the biggest football game since the Super Bowl. I regret making

such an assumption because, when I realized the truth by reading the schedule, I was utterly disappointed.

The New England Patriots broke the NFL record for most consecutive wins by beating the Miami Dolphins in a game that began at 1300 EST. Instead of showing that matchup, which surely was memorable and record-breaking in nature, the AFN wizards chose to show a matchup of two struggling teams, Cleveland and Pittsburgh. This reminds me of last week when the Patriots were snubbed by AFN when they tied the record against the Buffalo Bills (it was CBS's game of the week). Patriots fans missed that game as well.

Not only are the Patriots world champions, they also rewrite sports history by winning their 19th consecutive game over two seasons. This represents an amazing accomplishment that even the casual football observer should find interesting. I think this accomplishment would be greater than or equal to witnessing Barry Bonds' 7000 home run or Cal Ripken's 2,131st consecutive game.

I can't imagine that the Steelers/Browns would actually attract more viewers, but I didn't get a vote. I think Americans serving overseas, especially those with sand in their boots, deserve better than a Steelers/Browns matchup during a week when a long-standing record will be broken. I figure the Patriots and their fans are getting a taste of the Red Sox's season of misfortune right here on AFN in the form of a media blackout. AFN, please hear my complaint and change your schedule so my family, other fans of football and all great Americans can witness sports of your fine network. Go Patriots!

Jeff Blood
Camp Zama, Japan

A study in success

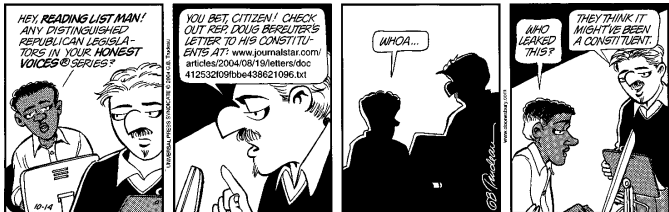
I'm a student at Kubasaki High School — "home of the dragons" — and I would like to discuss the block scheduling that has been in motion for Department of Defense Dependents Schools for the past three years here on Okinawa. I find it a great way to balance out classes and other activities after school.

The classes we have are broken into two days, an "A" day and a "B" day. This gives us more time in class to know what's going on and fewer books to carry each day. I'm glad that DODDS decided to go with this program since having seven classes each day (and in some of them you don't even have enough time to complete an in-class assignment) was a struggle during my middle school days at Lester Middle School. Block scheduling is a great way to organize a student's day since he or she can concentrate on his or her schoolwork every other day instead of just trying to get all assignments done for all the classes in one day and having the assignments be due the next day. I support block scheduling and hope that it'll continue throughout my remaining high school days.

Francis Neely
Kubasaki High School, Okinawa

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION

A number of problems with how polls work

In the mood to decipher the indecipherable or explain the inexplicable this political season? Try reconciling two poll-tracking Web sites. Each of the two claims to offer a peek inside the minds of American voters coupled with a

Bonnie Erbe
I've been driving myself batty (according to my husband, a short drive) for several months, "motoring" as it were to **rasmussenreports.com**. This Web site's daily and rolling track-

ing polls provide not only national numbers, (to which so-called experts this year are paying scant attention) but also tallies of voters' inclinations in the all-important battleground states. The site then projects the likely outcome of the prized Electoral College vote. More recently, I found **electoral-vote.com**, which, unlike **rasmussenreports.com**, does not produce its own polling but collects and cites a variety of other polls.

As of Sunday, here's how the two Web sites were calling the presidential race: **Rasmussenreports.com** does not describe itself as Republican-leaning but owner Scott Rasmussen has been widely identified in the media as a Republican pollster. Its latest numbers tracking poll showed President Bush drew the support of 50 percent of likely voters and Sen. John Kerry drew 46 percent.

Rasmussenreports tallied the Electoral College votes as follows: Bush 240, Kerry

179. With 270 the magical number for victory, **rasmussenreports.com** projected no clear winner, but declared the president way ahead of the challenger, Kerry.

Electoral-vote.com, whose creator is a self-described Kerry supporter, has Kerry at 270 electoral votes (that magic number again) and Bush a "fer piece" back at 248.

We've all come to expect deviation in the polls. Last month several national polls on Bush's "bounce" coming out of the Republican National Convention showed him ahead of Kerry by spreads ranging from 2 to 12 points. That's a chasm-sized gap, given pollsters are all supposed to be polling similar representative samplings of likely or registered voters.

But the difference in battleground state leanings as proclaimed on these two Web sites is even greater.

What explains the difference? Pollsters offer a number of explanations.

First, the same exact question asked in different order, or with the modification of one changed word, can produce polar opposite results. Go figure.

Then, there's this season's cacophony of the "undecided voter." People who are not truly undecided may still claim to pollsters that they are, as a way of primping for additional media attention. After all, it's the "undecideds" who are starring on national television, in thoroughly scrutinized and fawned-over focus groups, etc. It's the "Hi mom, look at me," suddenly famous syndrome.

Then there are new oddities in the way pollsters poll and changes in voting patterns that continued may be provoking the precision of polling we're off: Its usual formulaic goal. These are as follows: Pollsters tend to call registered voters and likely voters (the people they prefer to poll) from well-worn lists of phone numbers they've used in the



past. Pollsters traditionally rely on land-line home phone numbers. The trend among younger voters (the 30-and-under crowd, which is to say, a sizable segment of the U.S. population) is away from land-line home phones, toward total reliance on cell phones. Cell phones are unlisted in telephone directories.

Therefore these voters' opinions, the belief goes, are not being adequately represented in pollsters' samplings.

Then there's the huge push by both parties to register tens of thousands (if not hundreds of thousands) of new voters per state, especially in battleground states. These voters, too, do not generally appear on pollsters' lists. So their opinions may not be fairly represented.

resented.

Democrats claim to have registered larger proportions of new voters than Republicans. But then again, just because people register does not necessarily equate with orders of new voters trudging to polling places on Election Day. Still, this change in registration patterns may be enough to throw the reliability of polls into question.

In sum, there are more questions than answers this election season about the reliability of polls. Where we end up is, not only is the American public deeply divided but our pollsters are, too.

Bonnie Erbe, host of the PBS program "To the Contrary," writes this column for Scripps Howard News Service.

Answers to 8 questions will decide 1 veteran's vote

BY KEITH W. MINES

I am a 28-year veteran of the active Army and reserves, having served the nation in civilian and military assignments in Grenada, Honduras, El Salvador, Somalia, Haiti, Afghanistan and Iraq.

I am the son of an aviator forward observer who fought in the Pacific in World War II, the father of a young man who will reach military age during the next administration and is anxious to get into uniform, the uncle of a Marine who was on his way to the Ramat-El-Fallah area of Iraq (his second deployment), and the second cousin of a soldier who recently returned from Sadr City.

I am from the class of Americans that fights our wars, as opposed to the class that promotes and fantasizes about them. As I vote Nov. 2, I will not take with me the impressions garnered from the candidates' use of the armed forces as campaign props. Rather, I will ask these questions about how the next president will organize our military for war and how he will position our country:

■ Will you increase the size of the military? I have yet to meet anyone in uniform who believes that the current force is large enough to manage America's threats. In the wake of 9/11, we are involved in a manpower-intensive fight with huge unknowns. We need a big increase in our armed forces to manage the threats, several new permanent divisions for the Army and Marines and large increases in our special operations forces and reserve force, at a minimum.

■ Will you maintain the post-Vietnam force structure? After 9/11, our military was restructured so that it would be impossible to go to war without a national consensus by making Reserve and National Guard units essential to any large campaign. This

made deployments slightly slower but enhanced national support for our operations. I would be extremely leery of moves to return the military to a federal force that could be deployed without this consensus.

■ Will you build lasting alliances? Forget the go-it-alone machismo. It might bring the crowds to their feet on the campaign trail, but for the soldiers and Marines who are now deploying for the second time in Iraq, more allies would be welcome.

■ Will you carry out policies that will anger the world? There is an endless supply of recruits for al-Qaida and other terrorist spin-offs, but the huge middle ground that is waiting to be persuaded to fight against us or to leave us alone. How we conduct ourselves in the world will help determine which way the middle moves. I want a president who is viewed positively.

■ Will you forcibly repudiate Abu Ghraib? The Abu Ghraib prison scandal may be the biggest foreign policy disaster since Vietnam. By leaving in its wake images of American sexual and physical domination of Arab men, it will inspire our enemies and enhance recruiting for groups that wish to hurt us at a time when the ability to damage us has increased manifold. I seek a president who will forcibly repudiate these actions.

■ Will you listen to your military advisers? It is understood by civilian leaders of the armed forces that their job is to set policy and allow the military to carry it out. When the civilian leadership gets too deeply involved in the nuts and bolts of military operations, things tend to go awry.

■ Do you have a strategy? Since 9/11, we have devised a number of tools for fighting

terrorism but have yet to develop a toolbox. Neither candidate has laid out a comprehensive strategy for our current conflict or a paradigm for the post-Cold War world. I would be interested in a doctrine, however flexible and broad, that could replace containment and guide our policies and practices.

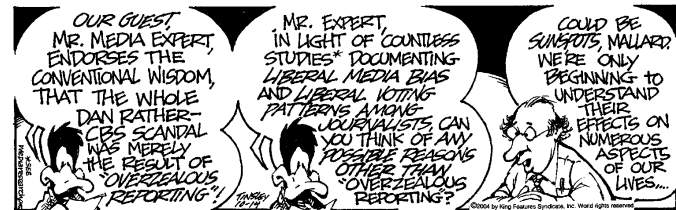
■ Do you understand the world? While it is not the nature of our political system to offer leaders who are well traveled and have lived abroad, some understanding of the world would be helpful for a wartime leader.

President Bush and Sen. John Kerry may continue to waste money on petty attack ads and counterattack ads if they like, but to win this veteran's vote, they would do better to answer these eight simple questions.

Keith W. Mines is a major in the Army Special Forces Reserve. This column first appeared in *The Baltimore Sun*.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Horoscope

The Scorpio moon ushers in a serious mood but not necessarily a solemn one. Going deeper into the cause of a problem will be featured this afternoon. This is done best by observing the people connected to the issue. We are keenly attuned to human behavior, and if we ask ourselves the right questions, the answers are apparent.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(October 14). You come to a realization about yourself this year that changes your life forever. Perhaps it will motivate you to seek out a support group, change careers or find a new mate. You join a club or organization of like-minded individuals at the start of the new year and meet someone there — a teacher, love or friend — who expands your mind.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your warm temperament and willingness to tell it like it is may have attracted the affections of one who's a bit slower on the uptake. You're not in case for your patience, but in this case, it would behoove you to make an extra effort.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Regarding emotional and financial security, help is coming. You meet a well-informed expert in the field that is relevant to you — be it health care, insurance or banking. You'll know this person by his/her air of authority and warmth.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Everything seems to be falling into place all around you, but for once, you are the calm at the center of the storm. Survey the chaos with an eye for remembering details — you may be called upon to give a deposition.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The workweek has thrown you out of alignment, and you desperately need to re-center yourself so you can make the most of the next few days. How do you know you're out of alignment? There's too much clutter in your head.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Just because it's raining doesn't mean the sky is falling. Try to maintain your perspective and your positive

attitude. The most important thing is your health and safety. Focus on that first, and everything else will follow suit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Unfinished business nags at the back of your mind. Perhaps it's an old flame or a project you just can't seem to finish. You're the only one still obsessing about it. Everyone else has moved on, so don't let it ruin your day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Family squabbles can drag you down. You may not want to fall for the same old dynamic. What would happen if, for once, you refused to play the expected role of go-between? Let folks talk to each other instead of relaying messages.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Regarding a special deal, stick mainly to your terms, but do remain flexible on the points that don't mean as much to you. A certain amount of give and take in the form of revisions will be required to finalize things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

You've settled into a new situation that arose in your life over the last season. Maybe it's a new job, a new love or a travel opportunity. Check in with your higher self again now that you're over the hump.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You're a good provider. Is it any wonder that family members are hitting you up for money? If you can comfortably afford it, you would do well to spread the wealth around a bit. Your family — and the economy — will benefit.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You're doing all the right things care about and focusing on bettering yourself and the world. Just try to be patient. An older female friend, perhaps a neighbor, could really use your assistance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Your love life is really cooking. It's only going to get hotter in the coming weeks, too. Right now, focus on finances. You and your fellow water sign, Cancer and Scorpio, are in a prime position to receive a big windfall soon.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes

HOW CAN OUR TIME BE UP? I JUST DID THE FIRST PROBLEM ON THIS ONE! WHERE DID THE TIME GO?



GUESSES! GUESSES! PICK RANDOM NUMBERS! MATHS A FEW WILL BE RIGHT BY SHEER LUCK! 187, 104, 3, 27!



HAND IT IN, CALVIN. YOUR TIME'S UP!



DON'T FORGET! WE HAVE A BET! DON! GAMBLE! NO BETS!



Jump Start



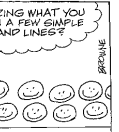
Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



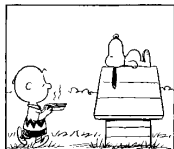
Red and Rover



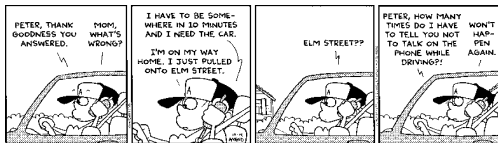
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



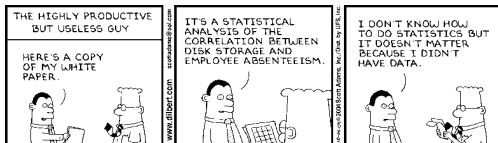
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



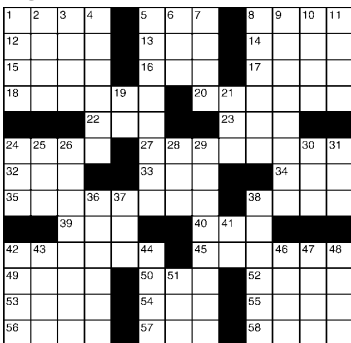
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Crony
5 Scepter topper
8 Double agent
12 Patina
13 Luau bowlful
14 Duel tool
15 Blueprint
16 Mad Hatter's quaff
17 Hand out hands
18 Deli buy
20 Rejects disdainfully
22 P.E. venue
23 Simile center
24 Wind-section member
27 Quarantined
32 Big shot
33 Speed along
34 401(k) alternative
35 Point of tangency
38 Swindle
39 Tennis stroke
42 Vacillate
45 Baltimore bird
49 Bald eagles' lookalikes
50 B&B
52 Incite
53 Grown-up nits
54 49 Across' venue
55 Teller's partner
56 Retainers
57 RNC figure
58 Guru's practice

Down

- 1 Uppercase
2 Island entertainment feeder
3 Caspian Sea
4 Handle
5 Make as good as possible
6 Lobster coral
7 Prejudice
8 She's had some bad hair days
9 Dramatically grand
10 Slender
11 Lampreys
19 "Goodness gracious!"
21 See 1-Across
24 Evening aces
25 Cloth protector
26 Wealth
28 Sermon subject
29 Not necessary
30 Geological period
31 Spill checker?
36 Plays quilts
37 Biz deg.
38 Short-tempered
41 On the other hand
42 Ego
43 Toledo's lake
44 Thin strand
46 Hydrox rival
47 Protracted
48 Barry Humphries' Dame
51 Ultramodernist

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-14

CRYPTOQUIP

VDXW Z QKAQKRN X RN
NEXXORWS, VKFET HKF NZH
QDZQ HKF VRQWXXNT
Z WZORWS QFAQEX?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEING THAT I RELISH
GOSSIPING ABOUT OPEN-TOED SHOES, I GUESS
I'M A SANDALMONGER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T

Scams target those in mourning

Dear Abby: I agree with your advice 95 percent of the time. However, I disagree with your comments to "Heartstick in N.Y.," the widow who said a young woman had shown up on her doorstep claiming to be her deceased husband's illegitimate daughter.

That young woman didn't ask to be born from an affair. Although I'm sure the widow is heartstick, there is no way to easily break that kind of news to anyone. If "Heartstick" is unsure about paternity, a simple DNA test can be done to prove the truth.

—Cheryl in San Antonio

Dear Cheryl: That's true. And that is why I advised "Heartstick" to contact her lawyer right away. However, my gut told me that something might be amiss. And here's why. Read on:

Dear Abby: "Heartstick's" letter had "con artist" written all

over it. Please inform her that there are people who check the obituaries every day for the names of people who die. They get all the personal information and show up when the survivors are not thinking clearly.

Pictures can be doctored, and the information about the husband being in the sports field, I'm sure, was public knowledge. It's a simple matter, with today's technology, to scan pictures and digitally alter them.

If the husband was clever enough to have kept his affair and the child hidden for 20 years, and he wanted to help the girl with college tuition, don't you think he'd have devised some way to provide for her financial security? And if that girl was really his daughter, don't you think she'd have been more sensitive to him to have approached his widow at a time like that?

—Been Conned in Mississippi
Dear Conned: I agree with you. There are better ways to

approach someone than to tell the person the last 20 years of her marriage was a lie. Read on:

Dear Abby: My 37-year-old husband was killed by a drunk driver. His picture appeared in the newspaper. My husband was a very handsome man who had been successful in sales.

When I returned from his funeral, I found, mixed in with the condolence notes, a letter from a woman claiming that my husband was the father of her child. She said she was willing to leave town and not embarrass us, but needed money to do so. I did not contact a lawyer—I called the police. They contacted the FBI and the woman was caught.

It was a scam that she had used successfully before.

—Sympathetic in Hawaii
Dear Sympathetic: You're a quick thinker.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to http://www.foxpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words

HANEN

GROOF

ROTTAH

QUALEP

www.jumble.com

Answer here: " " " "

Yesterday's Jumbles:

LISLE NEEDY VOYAGE FEMALE

The carpenters worked well together because they were — ON THE SAME "LEVEL"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Pamper friend going through divorce

Dear Annie: My good friend, "Ellen," is going through a difficult time. Her husband of 20 years is having a midlife crisis, and after two months of making Ellen miserable, he finally confessed that he wants a divorce and is looking forward to a new life with his new girlfriend. The jerk even had the nerve to say he doesn't find Ellen physically attractive. Ellen is in her 40s, but looks younger. She's always watched her weight, takes pride in her appearance and has a fantastic personality.

Ellen is devastated. She's having problems eating and sleeping, and her self-esteem is in the toilet. Her therapist is working with her and the kids, but a bunch of us would love to treat her to a complete makeover to give her a new look for her new life. However, with all the damage her husband has caused, I'm afraid it would hurt her feelings to suggest that she needs to rethink her hair, makeup and clothing.

Should we do this, or leave well

enough alone?

—Baffled Friend

Dear Friend: Your think this is a great way to lift Ellen's spirits.

But don't approach it as if her appearance needs work. Instead, tell her she deserves to be pampered and you want to cheer her up by treating her to a "spa" day. It would be even better if all of you could

afford to accompany her and have a "girls' day" together. Skip the new clothing and instead consider a pedicure or a massage. Then she will believe it's a gift to help her relax and not a form of criticism.

Dear Annie: Don't parents teach their kids manners these days? There was a child about 7 years old in my store last week. He kept shouting over and over, "I want a toy!" His mother couldn't concentrate on the transaction taking place. To top it off, after being so rude, he was al-

lowed to get the toy he wanted.

I have a 9-year-old daughter, and I teach her basic manners, such as knocking on a closed door before entering, not touching things that do not belong to her, etc.

I will admit that my daughter is smart for her age, but if parents would put their foot down and teach their children some basic courtesies, our world would be a much nicer place.

—Frustrated in Kentucky

Dear Kentucky: Ah yes, purchasing the toy after the child threw a tantrum was definitely the wrong message to send, and too many parents give in to their child's demands even when they know they shouldn't.

There are plenty of parents who teach their children manners and consideration for others. They should be commended. The rest should take lessons.

There are plenty of parents who teach their children manners and consideration for others. They should be commended. The rest should take lessons.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



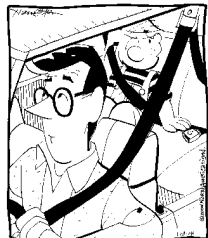
"No, P.J. Cover your MOUTH when you cough."

GRAFFITI

AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSIONS ARE SUFFLESS

USA 1974

Dennis the Menace



"MR. WILSON SAYS MOST ACCIDENTS HAPPEN WITHIN FIVE MILES OF YOUR HOME. MAYBE WE SHOULD PAVE."

The Far Side



"Crimony! Kevin's eating his way up onto the table... Some slugs have a few drinks and just go nuts!"

Non Sequitur



Give generously and *Make a World of Difference* for those in need.



**Give to the
CFC-O today.**

4 October to 3 December

Support the charity of your choice.

Whether through service to your country or by supporting your favorite charity through the CFC-O, Americans respond when asked to help.

Please continue the tradition of giving by supporting charities that improve the quality of life in your neighborhood, our nation and around the world.

CFC-O GIVEAWAY

SUPPORT THE CFC-O AND HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF THREE GREAT PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE

2005 Jeep

Liberty Renegade



WWW.ENCs.COM

The only car-buying program created by the military for the military.
Look for us on base.



The 2004 CFC-O is conducting a Giveaway as part of this year's campaign. By completing a pledge card, whether you donate or not, you are eligible to win. Winners will be randomly selected in March 2005 and notified by phone and/or in writing by the CFC-O. Enter now and win!

SECOND PRIZE

2 Airline
Tickets

THIRD PRIZE

\$1,000

Savings Bond



Visit us at **GEICO.com**
for overseas locations
and phone numbers.

In the U.S. call 1-800-947-AUTO

Special thanks to Exchange New Car Sales and DaimlerChrysler for donating the FIRST PRIZE, and to GEICO for donating the SECOND and THIRD PRIZES. CFC-O appreciates your support.

2004 Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas
www.cfcoverseas.org

Celebrate October with your Yokosuka MWR



Officers' Club 243-5002

Prime Rib Buffet Saturdays

All Hands Oktoberfest October 23

Join us for authentic German-style cuisine, German beer and Oompa Band for only \$20.95 adult, \$8.95 children 8 to 11 years and \$6.95 for children four to seven years old

United Nations Day October 24

Celebrate this important day with a mouth-watering brunch buffet featuring food from all over the world. Bring your entire Wardroom along with you, too

Seaside Club 243-3379

Bosses' Day October 15 from 1100 to 1500

Take your boss to lunch and they receive free dessert and coffee

Couple's Night October 22 from 1700 to 2100

Take your special someone to dinner and both of you receive a free non-alcoholic beverage

Children Eat Free Thursdays

During October your child 11 and under eats free in the dining room when ordering off the Children's Menu with every adult regular or special dinner purchased

Club Alliance 243-5951

Latin Explosion with DJ Martha Thursdays from 2000 to 2400 First Floor

Chef's Choice Night Fridays from 1700 to 1900 Upper Deck Sports Bar

DJ Masa Sundays from 2200 to 0200 at Sharky's

Bosses' night with Dj Martha October 14 Bring your boss and enjoy free food and entertainment

1700-2000 Bosses' night and Meet and Greet for the USS Fitzgerald - Lot's of food and fun
1900-2030 Dance Lessons with Andres - learn to dance salsa, bachata and merengue \$5.00/lesson registration will begin at 1800
2030-2400 Latin Night with DJ Martha

Club Takemiya 246-8075

National Seafood Month October

Receive \$1 off all seafood items on lunch or dinner menus

Eddie Cotton Performance October 23 from 1700 to 2100

Enjoy this outstanding musician live in the dining room

Soul Train XXXVI Halloween Party and Costume Contest October 30 from 2100 to 0200

Enjoy a spooky night to remember featuring our top DJ playing all of your favorite jams from the 70s and 80s plus prizes for first, second and third place costume contest winners

CPO Club 243-5606

Cruise Inn Now Open Friday and Saturday Nights

Thanks to your requests, we're now open 1900 to 2400 Friday and Saturday nights! Stop by and see what's cooking!

Chef Yama's Cooing Class October 16

Enjoy a delightful three-course Japanese dinner that you help create under the guidance of our special chef for only \$5 including iced tea, soft drink or coffee

Bosses' Night Social Hour October 21 from 1730 to 1930

Enjoy delicious appetizers free of charge

Ngishi Club 242-4151

National Pizza Month Now thru October 31

Celebrate with a 16-inch pizza special, dine-in or take-out, for only \$10 for cheese and \$11 for pepperoni

Prime Rib Night Saturdays

Halloween Costume Party October 30

Celebrate, munch on goodies and compete for "Best Costume" prizes



Bingo! Join us at Club Alliance Every Saturday

at 1200 for your chance to take home grand prizes of \$2,500, \$5,000 or \$10,000 and a guaranteed \$1,000 giveaway for the last game. Can't wait till the weekend? Then join us at the CPO Club every Tuesday & Thursday at 1800 #1138



Starbucks Coffee Now open

Monday - Friday 0630-2100
Saturday & Sunday 0730-2100

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Thursday
AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. — College football: Purdue vs. Penn State (vid).
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. — NFL: Cincinnati Bengals vs. Houston vs. St. Louis, Game 1.
AFN-Atlantic, 9 a.m. — Baseball: Los Angeles Angels vs. Houston.
AFN-Sports, 4 p.m. — Soccer: Panama vs. Team USA (vid).
AFN-Sports, 8:30 p.m. — NBA preseason: Sacramento vs. Houston.

Friday
AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. — Soccer: Panama vs. Team USA (vid).
AFN-Sports, 4 a.m. — College football: West Virginia vs. Connecticut.
AFN-Sports, 8:30 a.m. — College football: West Virginia vs. Connecticut.
AFN-Pre Atlantic, 9 a.m. — Baseball: NL Championship Series, Houston vs. St. Louis, Game 1.
AFN-Sports, 4 p.m. — NBA preseason: Sacramento vs. Houston.
AFN-Sports, 8 p.m. — College football: Louisville vs. Miami, Fla. (vid).

All times are Japan and Korea Standard Time. Dates indicate delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.afnradio.com for more information.

High school

Japan cross country

Saturday's results
At Sasebo, Japan, Iizumi Park
11-mile course
Boys team winner — Nile C. Kinnick, 45.
Boys individual results
 1. Peter Kamas, Robert D. Edgar, 17 minutes, 33 seconds.
 2. Chris Chertoff, Zane American, 17:35.
 3. Daniel Sanchez, Robert D. Edgar, 17:42.
 4. Justin Biskup, Matthew P. Perry, 17:57.
 5. Matt Duncan, Nile C. Kinnick, 18:12.
 6. Zane American, Zane American, 18:18.
 7. Graham Will, Nile C. Kinnick, 18:48.
 8. Zane American, Zane American, 18:50.
 9. Chris Hanswiler, Zane American, 19:04.
 10. Raynor Buggoyne, Nile C. Kinnick, 19:06.
Girls team winner — Nile C. Kinnick, 25 minutes.
Girls individual results
 1. Eri Ireland, Nile C. Kinnick, 21:55.
 2. Jennifer Gasher, Robert D. Edgar, 21:56.
 3. Nicole Franz, Nile C. Kinnick, 22:20.
 4. Nicole Bruch, Zane American, 22:30.
 5. Brett Wagner, Zane American, 23:10.
 6. Stephanie Martinez, Zane American, 23:10.
 7. Cynthia Ortiz, Matthew P. Perry, 23:18.
 8. Carl Wain, Nile C. Kinnick, 23:18.
 9. Whitney Patterson, Zane American, 23:52.
 10. Nicole Allison, C.J. King, 24:22.

College football

Division I-AA Top 25
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Top 25 teams in the Sports Network Division I-AA football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 10 and 11 games ranking:

Rank	Team	Record	Pts
1	Southern Illinois (10)	5-1	2,620
2	Georgia Southern (17)	4-1	2,283
3	Delaware (1)	4-1	2,342
4	Western Kentucky (2)	4-1	2,277
5	Montana	5-1	2,081
6	Wofford	4-1	1,932
7	New Hampshire	5-1	1,879
8	Furman	4-2	1,773
9	Stephen L. Austin	5-1	1,717
10	Northwestern State	5-1	1,598
11	Maine	5-1	1,410
12	Sam Houston	5-1	1,410
13	Arkansas State	5-1	1,244
14	Appalachian State	5-1	1,176
15	William & Mary (1)	4-1	1,070
16	Albany	5-1	1,003
17	Lehigh	4-1	929
18	Northwestern	3-2	631
19	North Carolina	3-2	578
20	NC Davis	5-0	574
21	Villanova	4-2	525
22	Eastern Washington	4-2	329
23	Pennsylvania	3-1	232

Top AP 25 schedule
Wednesday, Oct. 13
 No. 17 West Virginia at Connecticut
Thursday, Oct. 14
 No. 3 Miami vs. No. 15 Louisville
Saturday
 No. 1 Southern Cal vs. No. 15 Arizona State
 No. 2 Oklahoma at Kansas State
 No. 4 Auburn vs. Arkansas
 No. 5 Purdue vs. No. 10 Wisconsin
 No. 6 Virginia at No. 7 Florida State
 No. 8 Georgia vs. UCLA
 No. 9 Texas vs. Missouri
 No. 10 Utah vs. North Carolina
 No. 12 Texas A.M. vs. Vanderbilt
 No. 13 Tennessee at Mississippi
 No. 14 Michigan at Illinois
 No. 15 Oklahoma State vs. No. 23 Texas A.M.
 No. 19 Minnesota at Mississippi
 No. 21 Boise State at Tulsa
 No. 22 Florida vs. Middle Tennessee
 No. 24 Southern Mississippi at Alabama
 No. 25 Ohio State at Iowa

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer
Eastern Conference

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
W	1	1	4	5	46
X	1	0	3	10	40
Y	1	0	3	10	40
Z	1	0	3	10	40
AA	1	0	3	10	40
AB	1	0	3	10	40
AC	1	0	3	10	40
AD	1	0	3	10	40
AE	1	0	3	10	40
AF	1	0	3	10	40
AG	1	0	3	10	40
AH	1	0	3	10	40
AI	1	0	3	10	40
AJ	1	0	3	10	40
AK	1	0	3	10	40
AL	1	0	3	10	40
AM	1	0	3	10	40
AN	1	0	3	10	40
AO	1	0	3	10	40
AP	1	0	3	10	40
AQ	1	0	3	10	40
AR	1	0	3	10	40
AS	1	0	3	10	40
AT	1	0	3	10	40
AU	1	0	3	10	40
AV	1	0	3	10	40
AW	1	0	3	10	40
AX	1	0	3	10	40
AY	1	0	3	10	40
AZ	1	0	3	10	40
BA	1	0	3	10	40
BB	1	0	3	10	40
BC	1	0	3	10	40
BD	1	0	3	10	40
BE	1	0	3	10	40
BF	1	0	3	10	40
BG	1	0	3	10	40
BH	1	0	3	10	40
BI	1	0	3	10	40
BJ	1	0	3	10	40
BK	1	0	3	10	40
BL	1	0	3	10	40
BM	1	0	3	10	40
BN	1	0	3	10	40
BO	1	0	3	10	40
BP	1	0	3	10	40
BQ	1	0	3	10	40
BR	1	0	3	10	40
BS	1	0	3	10	40
BT	1	0	3	10	40
BU	1	0	3	10	40
BV	1	0	3	10	40
BW	1	0	3	10	40
BX	1	0	3	10	40
BY	1	0	3	10	40
BZ	1	0	3	10	40
CA	1	0	3	10	40
CB	1	0	3	10	40
CC	1	0	3	10	40
CD	1	0	3	10	40
CE	1	0	3	10	40
CF	1	0	3	10	40
CG	1	0	3	10	40
CH	1	0	3	10	40
CI	1	0	3	10	40
CJ	1	0	3	10	40
CK	1	0	3	10	40
CL	1	0	3	10	40
CM	1	0	3	10	40
CN	1	0	3	10	40
CO	1	0	3	10	40
CP	1	0	3	10	40
CQ	1	0	3	10	40
CR	1	0	3	10	40
CS	1	0	3	10	40
CT	1	0	3	10	40
CU	1	0	3	10	40
CV	1	0	3	10	40
CW	1	0	3	10	40
CX	1	0	3	10	40
CY	1	0	3	10	40
CZ	1	0	3	10	40
DA	1	0	3	10	40
DB	1	0	3	10	40
DC	1	0	3	10	40
DD	1	0	3	10	40
DE	1	0	3	10	40
DF	1	0	3	10	40
DG	1	0	3	10	40
DH	1	0	3	10	40
DI	1	0	3	10	40
DJ	1	0	3	10	40
DK	1	0	3	10	40
DL	1	0	3	10	40
DM	1	0	3	10	40
DN	1	0	3	10	40
DO	1	0	3	10	40
DP	1	0	3	10	40
DQ	1	0	3	10	40
DR	1	0	3	10	40
DS	1	0	3	10	40
DT	1	0	3	10	40
DU	1	0	3	10	40
DV	1	0	3	10	40
DW	1	0	3	10	40
DX	1	0	3	10	40
DY	1	0	3	10	40
DZ	1	0	3	10	40
EA	1	0	3	10	40
EB	1	0	3	10	40
EC	1	0	3	10	40
ED	1	0	3	10	40
EE	1	0	3	10	40
EF	1	0	3	10	40
EG	1	0	3	10	40
EH	1	0	3	10	40
EI	1	0	3	10	40
EJ	1	0	3	10	40
EK	1	0	3	10	40
EL	1	0	3	10	40
EM	1	0	3	10	40
EN	1	0	3	10	40
EO	1	0	3	10	40
EP	1	0	3	10	40
EQ	1	0	3	10	40
ER	1	0	3	10	40
ES	1	0	3	10	40
ET	1	0	3	10	40
EU	1	0	3	10	40
EV	1	0	3	10	40
EW	1	0	3	10	40
EX	1	0	3	10	40
EY	1	0	3	10	40
EZ	1	0	3	10	40
FA	1	0	3	10	40
FB	1	0	3	10	40
FC	1	0	3	10	40
FD	1	0	3	10	40
FE	1	0	3	10	40
FF	1	0	3	10	40
FG	1	0	3	10	40
FH	1	0	3	10	40
FI	1	0	3	10	40
FJ	1	0	3	10	40
FK	1	0	3	10	40
FL	1	0	3	10	40
FM	1	0	3	10	40
FN	1	0	3	10	40
FO	1	0	3	10	40
FP	1	0	3	10	40
FQ	1	0	3	10	40
FR	1	0	3	10	40
FS	1	0	3	10	40
FT	1	0	3	10	40
FU	1	0	3	10	40
FV	1	0	3	10	40
FW	1	0	3	10	40
FX	1	0	3	10	40
FY	1	0	3	10	40
FZ	1	0	3	10	40
GA	1	0	3	10	40
GB	1	0	3	10	40
GC	1	0	3	10	40
GD	1	0	3	10	40
GE	1	0	3	10	40
GF	1	0	3	10	40
GG	1	0	3	10	40
GH	1	0	3	10	40
GI	1	0	3	10	40
GJ	1	0	3	10	40
GK	1	0	3	10	40
GL	1	0	3	10	40
GM	1	0	3	10	40
GN	1	0	3	10	40
GO	1	0	3	10	40
GP	1	0	3	10	40
GQ	1	0	3	10	40
GR	1	0	3	10	40
GS	1	0	3	10	40
GT	1	0	3	10	40
GU	1	0	3	10	40
GV	1	0	3	10	40
GW	1	0	3	10	40
GX	1	0	3	10	40
GY	1	0	3	10	40
GZ	1	0	3	10	40
HA	1	0	3	10	40
HB	1	0	3	10	40
HC	1	0	3	10	40
HD	1	0	3	10	40
HE	1	0	3	10	40
HF	1	0	3	10	40
HG	1	0	3	10	40
HH	1	0	3	10	40
HI	1	0	3	10	40
HJ	1	0	3	10	40
HK	1	0	3	10	40
HL	1	0	3	10	40
HM	1	0	3	10	40
HN	1	0	3	10	40
HO	1	0	3	10	40
HP	1	0	3	10	40
HQ	1	0	3	10	40
HR	1	0	3	10	40
HS	1	0	3	10	40
HT	1	0	3	10	40
HU	1	0	3	10	40
HV	1	0	3	10	40
HW	1	0	3	10	40
HX	1	0	3	10	40
HY	1	0	3	10	40
HZ	1	0	3	10	40
IA	1	0	3	10	40
IB	1	0	3	10	40
IC	1	0	3	10	40
ID	1	0	3	10	40
IE	1	0	3	10	40
IF	1	0	3	10	40
IG	1	0	3	10	40
IH	1	0	3	10	40
II	1</				



Kadena's driving force

McCowan, Loving steering Islanders to top on Okinawa

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — If running backs are the driving force behind an offense, then David McCowan and Keith Loving are sharing the wheel for the Kadena Islanders, steering them to a 4-0 record and first place in the Okinawa Activities Council.

Before Loving ripped through the Kadena Bucs in the Islanders' 27-14 victory on Tuesday, the seniors had similar numbers, including an identical number of carries. Loving's 21 carries for 136 yards and a touchdown Tuesday gives him 447 yards on 71 rushes with six scores for the season, while McCowan has 328 yards on 60 carries and one touchdown this year.

With the regular season half over, the team is favored to capture its first league championship since it shared the title with the Kubasaki Samurai in 1996. That would send the Islanders to the Rising Sun Bowl, and they believe they can knock off four-time champion Yokota of Japan.

McCowan and Loving, said coach Sergio Mendoza, "have been instrumental ... not just in execution in practice, but driving things in games." They want that championship.

"We know we can play better ball," Mendoza said. "That could be a strength. They're not celebrating anything."

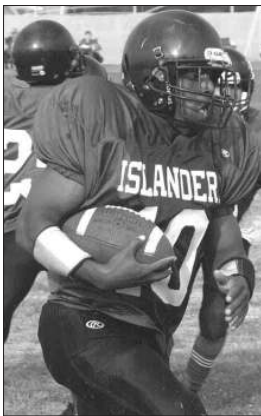
Burned in McCowan's mind are two late-season losses to the eventual island champion Kadena Buccaneers last year.

"We lost sight of our goals," he said. "That's a motivation to not let it happen again."

The Islanders appear to be a different machine this season. That, said the running backs, also is due to the offensive line.

"We may be the car, but they're the wheels," Loving said. "They drive us. They penetrate. They know where the gaps are. They know where we're going on every play. Show us the light."

And McCowan, "It takes a team. We're just trying to help the team."



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kadena Islanders senior RB David McCowan has 328 yards and a touchdown on 60 carries this year.

"Our philosophy is to win play by play," he said. "Let's win the play. The game is secondary. If we execute play by play, the rest will take care of itself."

Mendoza noted the marked improvement of each of his backs during the offseason. Both Loving and McCowan ran track and attended summer football camps.

"They're incredibly quick," he said. "They were running sub-11 (in the 100 meters) last spring. They're probably faster than that [now]. And they're cut, they're benching 1 1/2 times their weight."

The two bring an intensity to the field "that's wonderful for a coach to see," Mendoza said. "They challenge each other to be better football players. It's a healthy competition. ... They're very unselfish. As long as the team wins is what matters."

The senior pair aren't just a tandem on the field, they're practically inseparable off the field. They hang out with the same friends, lift weights together and watch college ball on television.

"We're like brothers," McCowan said. "We do everything together."

Where they differ might be in their running styles, Mendoza said.

"Keith has great eyes. He sees seams and hits those seams. He'll hit a hole and be gone for 20 yards," he said. "David gets to the corner, glides fast, and he'll power right through you."

In front of them is a line that had to overcome the loss of center Cole Maxey, who transferred to Reinsteiner Air Base, Germany. Filling his slot is senior Grady Pennell.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Senior RB Keith Loving, who has 447 yards and six TDs this season, has helped the Islanders go 4-0.

"The line is listening and learning basic techniques and executing well in practice," Mendoza said. "We've had some kids who have stepped up and filled some gaps. Grady is doing an awesome job of leading the line."

There's still plenty of work left to do, three more regular-season games — including a second game this week — plus the post-season, with the league title game slated for Nov. 4.

"I'd love to bring that gold home," McCowan said of a Nov. 13 road trip that could include derring that Rising Sun Bowl experience known as the Yokota Panthers.

"I think it can be done. Dedication. Bring that line. Win every play. If we do that, we'll make that flight home a happy one."

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: ornauer@starsipes.com

This week's schedule

Japan

Football

Friday, Oct. 15

Yokota at Zama American, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 16

Robert D. Edgren at American School in Japan, 1 p.m.

Girls volleyball

Friday, Oct. 15

Nile C. Kinnick at Robert D. Edgren, 5 p.m.; E.J. King and Matthew C. Perry at Nagaya International, 5 p.m.; Seisen Int'l at Christian Academy in Japan, 7 p.m.; American School in Japan at Zama American, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 16

Kinnick at Edgren, 10 a.m.; E.J. King and M.C. Perry at Nagaya Int'l, 10 a.m.; Int'l School of the Sacred Heart at CAI, 10 a.m.; Seisen Int'l at Zama, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 19

Zama at ASU, 7 p.m.; Kinnick at Sacred Heart, 7 p.m.

Tennis

Friday, Oct. 15

Robert D. Edgren and Matthew C. Perry at E.J. King, 3 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 16

Christian Academy in Japan at American School in Japan, 10 a.m.; Zama American at Nile C. Kinnick and Seisen Int'l, 10 a.m.; Edgren and M.C. Perry at E.J. King, 10 a.m.

Cross country

Saturday, Oct. 16

American School in Japan, Int'l School of the Sacred Heart, St. Mary Int'l, Christian Academy in Japan, Seisen Int'l, St. Mary Int'l, Yochikawa Kama American, Nile C. Kinnick and Yokota at Tama Hills Recreation Center, Tokyo, 3 a.m.

Guan

Football

Saturday, Oct. 16

Father Duques Memorial at George Washington, 10 a.m.; Southern at John F. Kennedy, 3 p.m.; Simon Sanchez vs. Guam High at Naval Station, 7 p.m.

Cross country

Thursday, Oct. 14

Independent interscholastic Athletic Association of Guam All-Island championship at Titiya, 5 a.m.

Girls volleyball

Saturday, Oct. 16

Third-place match

Game 10-8e loser vs. Game 9e loser, 5:30 p.m.

Championship

Game 11-8e winner vs. Game 9e winner, 7 p.m.

Game of the week

Football

Osan American (2-1)

at Seoul American (2-1)

When: 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16.

Where: Falcons Field, South Post, Yongin.

What: Showdown time in the Department of Defense's 16th Air Force's Schools-Korea league. Falcons aim for their 20th win in the second-half in the Pacific, and for their fourth straight league title. The game is the season's first when the league was run by Youth Activities Council, which has replaced the former Falcons, to even season series.

Seoul American is in hunt for its first championship on any kind since sharing the Korea Senior League youth title in 1996.

Players to watch: Falcons junior quarterback Bruce Brown has displayed a golden arm so far this season, going 17-for-21 for 346 yards and six touchdowns, including a perfect 11-for-11 for 247 yards and five scores in last week's 47-0 shutout of Taegu American.

After being held in the 16th Air Force's 20-0 shutout of Osan Sept. 18, Cougar senior quarterback Lee has been able to improve so much due to his skills, coordination, athleticism and confidence."

Oct. 2, a Korea single-game record for Pacific history.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Bruce Voelker

Football
Seoul American

Last week: Went a perfect 11-for-11 passing for 247 yards and five touchdowns to lead the Falcons to a 4-7-0 triumph over the Taegu American Warriors and a 2-0 first-place mark in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Korea league.



Voelker, a junior, has gone 17-for-21 for 346 yards and six TDs and also has run for a TD so far this season for the Falcons, who have won 10 straight games.

"Bruce is a driven guy who rises to expectations," said coach Julian Harden. "He's a natural leader who could excel at any position. He's unselfish, just does everything he needs to do to get the job done."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

Katie Wilkinson

Girls volleyball
Nile C. Kinnick, Japan

Last week: Stained in all facets of the game as the Red Devils went 5-0. Kinnick won in four sets over Yokohama International on Tuesday, then beat Matthew C. Perry and E.J. King twice each at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station. During that span, Wilkinson, a sophomore



middle blocker, racked up 20 spike kills, 22 service aces, 88 service points, 10 block points and 14 defensive digs.

"She has developed a bit this last year," coach Henry Falk said. "Last year, she was the youngest starter on the team and this year she is one of the main players. She has been able to improve so much due to her skills, coordination, athleticism and confidence."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

QB Quinn to start vs. Navy

The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn is expected to start Saturday against Navy after sustaining a concussion in his last game.

Sports briefs

Irish coach Tyrone Willingham said Tuesday that Quinn was expected to practice in the day. He said the training staff would monitor Quinn.

"I think Brady is fine, but I think what we have to do is always go through the formal steps each time a guy has an injury," Willingham said. "This one requires you to look at him. But I think he's fine."

Quinn didn't return to the game against Stanford last Saturday after scoring on a 2-yard run with 4:10 left in the game.

The sophomore has thrown for 1,529 yards and nine touchdown passes and five interceptions this season. His backup, Pat Dillingham, has played in three games this season, going 3-for-3 against Purdue for 28 yards.

Cal WR Lyman out for season

BERKELEY, Calif. — California wide receiver Chase Lyman will miss the rest of the season after undergoing surgery to repair a torn knee ligament.

The senior had 14 catches for 414 yards and five touchdowns for the eighth-ranked Golden Bears (3-1), but was hurt during their 23-17 loss to the top-ranked Southern California on Saturday.

V. Williams wins in Moscow

MOSCOW — Venus Williams defeated Russian qualifier Alina Jidkova 6-4, 6-4 in the opening round of the Kremlin Cup on Tuesday in her first match since losing in the fourth round of the U.S. Open.

Williams had five aces and doubled-faulted six times against the 27-year-old Russian.

"She played really well today, but my biggest challenge was myself," the seventh-seeded Williams said. "I was a bit rusty after several weeks off."

Elena Dementieva, the No. 5 seed, was one of four Russian



Notre Dame's Brady Quinn suffered a concussion during Saturday's 23-15 victory over Stanford.

players ranked in the Top 20 who advanced. Other winners included Vera Zvonareva, Nadia Petrova and Elena Bovina.

Peirso, U.S. relay set world records in Short Course

INDIANAPOLIS — Aaron Peirso lowered his world record in the 200-meter backstroke Monday, then helped his American teammates set a world mark in the 400 medley relay on the closing night of the Short Course World Championships.

Brooke Hanson of Australia won her record sixth gold medal, beating American Amanda Beard in the 200 breaststroke.

The United States won five of 12 finals Monday night, giving the Americans 21 victories in 40 events and 41 medals overall.

Australia was the only other country with a double-digit medal total. The Aussies earned 29, including seven gold.

Peirso's time of 1 minute, 50.52 seconds in the backstroke bettered his mark of 1:50.64 set in March in a short course World Cup meet in East Meadow, N.Y. He also won the 100 back.

The team of Peirso, Brendan Hansen, Ian Crocker and Jason Lezak won the relay by more than 5 seconds over Australia in 3:25.09, bettering the mark of 3:25.38 set by the University of Texas in the World Cup meet in March. The Aussies finished in 3:29.72. Russia was third.

Four world records were set during the five-day meet held in a 25-meter temporary pool at Consco Fieldhouse.

Hanson broke the gold-medal mark she shared with China's Li Jingyi (1993) and American Neil Walker (2000). She won the 200 breaststroke in 2:21.68, ahead of Beard in 2:22.53.

Jackson says he and Bryant had a 'psychological war'

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Phil Jackson called his relationship with Kobe Bryant at times a "psychological war" and sought to share his star guard in January, according to a diary of the former Lakers coach.

The diary of the 2003-04 season, titled "The Last Season: A Team in Search of Its Soul," will be released this month. An excerpt of the book will be published in next week's issue of Los Angeles magazine.

"I do know that there were many occasions this year when I felt like there was a psychological war going on between us," Jackson wrote. "Amazingly, we came to a truce, even to a higher level of trust. Ultimately, though, I don't believe we developed enough trust between us to win a championship."

Jackson said the strain between him and Bryant led him to hire a therapist to consult with during the season, according to the Los Angeles Times, which printed excerpts from the magazine article in its Tuesday edition.

Alyson Sadofsky, a spokeswoman for SFX Basketball Group in Washington, said Bryant would not comment on the story.

Jackson wrote he became so frustrated with Bryant that he told General Manager Mitch Kupchak in January, "I won't coach this team next year if he is still here. He won't listen to anyone. I've had it with this kid."

It was not the first time Jackson requested the team trade Bryant. He sought to trade him to the Phoenix Suns for Jason Kidd and Shawn Marion in the 1999-00 season. But then-general manager Jerry West told Jackson that owner Jerry Buss would never trade the Lakers star, he wrote in his diary. Jackson said he was told the same thing last season.

During training camp last week, Bryant said he misses Jackson.

"We've had our tough times, we had our share of arguments, but I've always respected him as a coach," he said.

Bryant became exasperated with the feuding between Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal.

"At times the pettiness between the two of them can be unbelievably juvenile," he wrote.

Jackson wrote that Bryant was angry that O'Neal received allowances from the Lakers organization, but that "nobody this year, or in any year I've coached, has

received more 'allowances' than Kobe Bryant."

Among those allowances was the Lakers organization's partial payment for the private jets Bryant took to Colorado for the hearings in his rape case.

Bryant complained about the kind of plane he was given to fly to Colorado, Jackson wrote, adding "He should feel fortunate that he's not footing the bill himself."

Jackson said he became convinced to blame Bryant, even when it wasn't the player's fault.

The sexual assault charge against Bryant was dismissed last month at his accuser's request, but he still faces a lawsuit filed in Denver by the woman.

Bryant told Jackson that O'Neal's presence on the team would affect his decision to stay with the Lakers, adding, "I'm tired of being a sidekick," Jackson wrote.

Bryant has said he had no role in Jackson or O'Neal's departure from the team. Jackson retired, and O'Neal was traded to the Miami Heat. Buss also said the decision to trade O'Neal was made independently of Bryant.

Jackson said he had run-ins with O'Neal as well but that coaching him was "an experience I will cherish forever."

Return to China a business trip for Yao

The Associated Press

SHANGHAI, China — Declaring himself "here on business," hometown favorite Yao Ming joined Tracy McGrady and the rest of the Houston Rockets on Tuesday as they prepared for a pair of exhibition games against the Sacramento Kings — the first NBA games played in China.

Yao and the Rockets settled into their hotel after the long flight from the United States, but canceled a scheduled practice session after a luggage mix-up.

Yao told reporters in a packed news conference that he was happy to be home, but didn't consider his visit a social call.

"I'm here on business and I want to play well," said Yao, who was selected for Shanghai's youth team at age 14 and later played

for the Shanghai Sharks of the Chinese professional league.

Houston will play the Kings in Shanghai on Thursday and in Beijing on Sunday.

Blazers suspend Q. Woods

TUALATIN, Ore. — The Portland Trail Blazers suspended reserve forward Qyntel Woods without pay Tuesday pending a team investigation surrounding alleged dogfighting.

Woods' Lake Oswego home was searched Monday by Clackamas County Sheriff's deputies, acting on a warrant obtained after allegations that Woods abandoned his pit bull — reportedly

because the animal would not fight for him.

No criminal charges have been filed.

"We are deeply disturbed by the developments in this case and we believe that suspending Qyntel is warranted and necessary," team president Steve Patterson said in a written statement.

Dogfighting is a felony in Oregon. Promoting or conducting dogfighting is punishable by up to \$100,000 in fines and five years in jail, according to state statutes.

Utah's Lopez out indefinitely

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah Jazz guard Ron Lopez, who missed the 2002-03 season after having a second surgery on his right knee, will be out indefinitely after bumping his leg last weekend.



MILITARY DRIVERS WANTED!

Volkswagen seeks drivers with a passion for life. No experience necessary. Plus, get these great Exclusive Military Benefits available if you act while overseas TODAY!

- Invoice-based pricing
- 100% Price Protection
- Custom-ordered vehicle

Drivers wanted. 

Contact International AutoSource at: Web site: www.vvmilitarycarsales.com E-mail: vvmilitary@militarycars.com

STATE-IDEAL DELIVERY ONLY. All illustrations and specifications are to the best of our knowledge correct at the date of publication. They are subject to change made by the manufacturer and the laws or regulations of any federal, state or local government agency. Vehicles shown are for illustration only and may contain optional equipment available at additional cost. All programs and guarantees are subject to terms and conditions. (JAS-811)

Playing 'dumb' costing Raiders

Penalties, turnovers remain despite other changes

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Former coach Bill Callahan made national headlines for calling the Oakland Raiders the "dumbest team in America" last season.

With a new coach, new quarterback and plenty of new personnel, the same old problems are plaguing this team: turnovers, penalties and poor decision-making.

Coach Norv Turner said Monday morning to clean up things, but everybody is wondering whether it's truly possible.

Penalties have historically been much a part of the Raiders' persona as owner Al Davis' seemingly endless supply of shiny sweatshirts, and that doesn't seem to be changing under Turner's new regime.

This team is still seeing yellow. Oakland (2-3) has been flagged 48 times for 335 yards, and isn't taking care of the ball, either. The Raiders have lost five of their 10 fumbles and thrown nine interceptions, seven of those by Kerry Collins in the past 2½ games.

Since 1995, the Raiders have been among the league's top five for penalties each year, leading the NFL in 1996 and again during last season's 4-12 flop. In '96, they committed a franchise-record 156 penalties — a league record until Kansas City was flagged 158 times in 1998.

Last season, when the Raiders took the

worst fall of any team that played in the previous Super Bowl, Oakland was penalized 134 times for 1,120 yards.

And penalties aided the first four Indianapolis touchdowns in the Colts' 35-14 win on Sunday.

Four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Charles Woodson was reminded about Callahan's comments that came after another ugly performance in a 22-8 home loss to Denver last November when he left the Raiders at 3-9.

"First of all, we're not the dumbest team, so we pass on that," Woodson said. "We're a little ways away right now. It's frustrating to lose. We're not seeming to go in the right direction at this point. We're making too many mistakes."

"This is the fifth game of the season, people can't start folding their tents. This is a tough loss against a good team, make no mistake about that. But we've got to turn it around now."

Collins, who led the Giants to the 2001 Super Bowl, was picked off three times in his second start in place of injured Rich Gannon, the 2002 NFL MVP who's out with a broken vertebra in his neck.

If Collins were to stay on such a pace, which Turner insists isn't possible, he would shatter the Raiders' franchise record of 30 interceptions set by Ken Stabler in 1978. No Raiders quarterback has thrown more than 16 interceptions in a season since 1985.

"I think that Kerry has played long enough that he's had streaks where he's gone an extended period of time where he hasn't thrown an interception, and I think we can get him to that point," Turner said. "He wants to make the play because he knows if he makes it, it gives us a better chance to go score or get back in the game. You have to take something else and be a little more patient."

Only four times in his first nine NFL seasons did Collins throw more touchdowns than interceptions.

"It bothers me to a point, but I've learned you can't dwell on the past, good or bad," Collins said. "I've gone through stretches like this before, and I played my way through it."

"We lost, so that's an F in my book." Most of his teammates would probably give themselves the same grade.

On third-and-3 at the Oakland 48 during the Colts' first series, defensive end Tyler Brayton jumped offside to extend the drive, which ended with James Munro's 1-yard TD catch.

Early in the second quarter, the Colts had fourth-and-1 at the Raiders 40, and Akbar Gbajelamida jumped offside to give Indianapolis a first down. On the next play, Reggie Wayne beat Denard Walker for a 35-yard touchdown and a 14-0 lead.

Gbajelamida said he'd watched film on the Colts' quick snap and assumed the ball would be snapped as soon as the center touched the ball.



Colts defensive back Jason David scores a touchdown on an interception throw by Raiders quarterback Kerry Collins (5) during the fourth quarter on Sunday.

On the third play of the second half with the Raiders trailing 21-7, left guard Frank Middleton was called for holding on Amos Zereoue's 56-yard touchdown run.

Middleton disagrees with any suggestions the Raiders are playing stupid.

"We're not the only team in the league making penalties," he said. "They're not mental mistakes, they're just from playing hard. But I think right now we're trying to do too much."

Failing on fourth down troubling Parcels

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Don't expect the Dallas Cowboys to go for it on fourth down any time soon.

Coach Bill Parcells said Monday that he's giving up on that sort of risk. The Cowboys failed

NFL briefs

twice in a 26-10 loss Sunday to the New York Giants.

His reasoning: He only tries it when he has confidence in his team, and right now he absolutely doesn't.

"I don't really know what to expect at this point," Parcells said.

Parcells is fed up with how many penalties and turnovers the Cowboys (2-2) are committing, and the crucial times those mistakes and others are occurring.

It all comes down to concentration, he says. His players simply lack it, no matter how many coaches talk about it — and they've been talking about it a lot since training camp.

"Quite apparently, we're not getting through to the team," Parcells said. "It hasn't changed no matter how hard I've tried to do it, tried to emphasize it. We have periodically gotten better, but then we fall right back into the same thing."

Dolphins might have to turn to third-string quarterback

DAVIE, Fla. — Jay Fiedler has a cracked rib, and A.J. Feeley has a concussion. So the Miami Dolphins might be forced to turn to third-string quarterback Sage Rosenfels when they play the Buffalo Bills Sunday in a matchup of



MIAMI HERALD/KIT

Dolphins quarterback Jay Fiedler, right, was injured in Sunday's game with New England, and was his replacement, A.J. Feeley.

the NFL's last two winless teams.

Rosenfels has not played this season. He is 4-for-9 for one touchdown in four NFL seasons.

Fiedler first hurt his rib against the Jets on Oct. 3, then was injured again late in Sunday's 24-10 loss at New England when he was sacked by safety Rodney Harrison.

"The ribs are tender right now," Fiedler said Monday. "I'll take it day by day and see how it goes."

Feeley, who replaced Fiedler against New England, sustained a concussion on Miami's last offensive play when he was hit by linebacker Roscoe Colvin after releasing a pass.

"I got a direct shot to the chin

and it made me a little lopy," Feeley said. "I got the aches and pains of two plays. Other than that I'm fine."

"Jay and A.J. are both doing better than [on Sunday] from a health standpoint. We will evaluate them and then see where they're at on Wednesday morning as far as practice and who can do what and exactly where their health is."

Wannstedt's only other option is Rosenfels, a fourth-year veteran who has played in just six games.

"I'm the insurance policy," Rosenfels said. "If for some reason these guys can't go, I'm going to be ready just like I am every week."

Foster out 6-10 weeks

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — DeShaun Foster, joined Carolina's growing list of injured offensive stars and will be out six to 10 weeks with a broken collarbone.

That's devastating news for the Panthers (3-3).

After remaining fairly injury-free last season en route to the NFC championship, the bumps, bruises and breaks have piled up early this year.

Star receiver Steve Smith is out indefinitely with a broken leg, top running back Stephen Davis has missed three games after knee surgery, and kick returner Rod Smart, also the No. 3 running back on the roster, is out with a knee injury.

Davis is still day out, even after declaring only "a hurricane, maybe a tornado or something" would hold him out of Sunday's game at Denver. But when he looked just so-so in pregame warm-ups, the Panthers scratched him in favor of Foster.

That backfired when Foster left in the first half, leaving Nick Gons and fullback Brad Hoover as the only able runners in Denver's 20-17 victory.

Simms' injury gives Griese shot

TAMPA, Fla. — Brian Griese never lost faith in himself.

He fell out of favor in Denver and didn't quite feel at home in his native Miami, but the 29-year-old quarterback is determined to make the most of an opportunity to rekindle his career with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"I've been through quite a bit in my career," Griese said after learning he'll make his first start

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team prognoses. (See Saturday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league.)

Lions: WR Roy Williams (ankle) is out 10-to-14 days but is unlikely to play on Sunday.

Redskins: S Matt Bowen (knee) is out for the season.

Giants: WR Tim Carter (hip) likely is out for the season.

for the Bucs next Monday night against the St. Louis Rams, replacing injured Chris Simms.

Griese came off the bench to spark Sunday's 20-17 victory over the New Orleans Saints, completing 16 of 19 passes for 194 yards and a touchdown after Simms left his first pro start with a sprained throwing shoulder.

Coach Jon Gruden said Monday that Simms is day-to-day, but Griese will start against the Rams. If Simms is not healthy enough to be the backup, Brad Johnson — the starter through the first four games — will be No. 2.

49ers' Peterson out for season

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — All-Pro linebacker Julian Peterson son left surgery to repair his torn left Achilles' tendon Tuesday, ending his season with the San Francisco 49ers.

Whether the injury also ended his career in San Francisco is uncertain. As he left the 49ers' training complex on crutches Monday, Peterson claimed he doesn't regret rejecting a \$15 million signing bonus and a lucrative long-term contract from the club last summer.

"If this team doesn't want to pay somebody else well," said Peterson, who sat out training camp before signing a one-year tender offer worth about \$6.1 million.

Peterson will be placed on injured reserve this week, coach Dennis Erickson said.

Titans, Brown rip through Packers

By ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Lambeau Field just isn't what it used to be, and neither are the Green Bay Packers.

Chris Brown ran for 148 yards and two long touchdowns, and Tennessee cruised to a 48-27 rout of the Packers on Monday night, scoring more points than any visitor ever at the famed stadium.

The Titans (2-3) snapped a three-game losing streak and sent the Packers (1-4) to their fourth straight loss — Green Bay's first four-game skid since 1991. From 1996 to 2002, Green Bay was 53-7 at home, including the postseason. The Packers lost to Atlanta in a playoff game in January 2003, starting a Lambeau slump that reached 6-7 with the loss to Tennessee.

"This is unfamiliar territory," Packers coach Mike Sherman said.

Only eight teams in NFL history have overcome a 1-4 start to reach the playoffs, including the Titans two years ago.

"It's something you want to avoid at all costs," Titans coach Jeff Fisher said.

Tennessee scored on five of its first six possessions with Brown going in on its first two series, from 37 and 29 yards out.

"To come in here and have a chance to win, you have to run the ball and get turnovers," Fisher said.

The Packers had six turnovers, including four in the second half. The Titans didn't turn the ball over at all.

"This wasn't season-saving, but it got us back on the right track," Titans safety Paul Williams said.

Steve McNair (chest, ankle) returned after missing Tennessee's last game, and threw two touchdown passes, including an 11-yarder to Eddie Brown in the third quarter after Brett Favre's third interception.

Favre ended his NFL record with his 213th consecutive start, including playoffs, despite numerous injuries, including a mild concussion he suffered last week. Favre also played after the death



Titans running back Chris Brown (29) pushes Packers safety Bhawoh Jue (21) away as he breaks after a 29-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. Brown ran for 148 yards and two scores in Tennessee's victory.

last week of his 24-year-old brother-in-law in an ATV accident at the family home in Mississippi.

Both teams had lost three straight, and much of the blame went to poor run defense, which showed up right away again for Green Bay as Brown carried nine times for 90 yards in the first quarter. The early deficit altered Green Bay's plan to give the Titans a steady diet of Alvin Green, who finished with just 10 carries for 33 yards.

The Packers had just 5 yards rushing in the first half.

Green Bay cornerback Michael Hawthorne capped a poor first series by missing the tackle on Brown's 37-yard touchdown run.

Brown made it 14-0 with a 29-yard scamper to beat the blitz on the Titans' second possession, after which Sherman chewed out his defenders on the sideline.

But soon his wrath was focused on Green.

The Packers' fumble-prone running back coughed up the ball at the Green Bay 34 with nose tackle Kevin Carter recovering for Tennessee. Green has fumbled four times this season.

The Titans converted Green's gaffe into a 36-yard field goal that made it 17-0 with 6 minutes left in the first quarter.

The Packers never recovered.

Monday
Titans 48, Packers 27

Tennessee 17 10 14-48
Green Bay 3 10 0 14-27

First Quarter
Ten—Brown 37 run (Anderson kick), 13:31.
Ten—Brown 29 run (Anderson kick), 8:45.
Ten—FG Anderson 36, 6:05.

GB—FG Longwell 38, 1:13.

Second Quarter
Ten—Fleming 18 pass from McNair (Anderson kick), 9:27.
GB—Frank 1 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 6:22.

GB—FG Anderson 38, 1:46.
GB—FG Longwell 53, 3:02.

Third Quarter
Ten—Berlin 11 pass from McNair (Anderson kick), 8:09.

Fourth Quarter
Ten—Mason 20 pass from Bennett (Anderson kick), 13:42.

GB—Frank 11 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 5:44.

GB—Walker 15 run (Anderson kick), 2:34.
GB—Walker 1 pass from Nail (Longwell kick), 1:03.

A-70-420.

Ten
First downs 45
Total Net Yards 455
Rushes/rats 44-224 11-35

Passing 132 402
Punting 5-7 1-21

Punt Returns 5-76 0-0
Kickoff Returns 16-274 15-523

Interceptions Ret. 0-0 0-0
Comps-Att-Int 4-38-0 23-40-0

Sacked-Yards Lost 0-0 0-0
Fumbles-Lost 12-0 0-0
Penalties-Yards 20-100 20-100

Time of Possession 30:00 22:00

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Tennessee: Brown 27-148, McNair 7-36, A. Smith 9-28, Bennett 1-12, Green Bay 10-33, Favre 1-2.

Passing—Tennessee: McNair 15-26-0-206, Bennett 1-0-26, Green Bay, Favre 1-0-0-0.

Receiving—Tennessee: Mason 4-63, Berlin 3-44, Fleming 2-36, Brown 2-24, Bennett 2-22, Holcomb 1-15, Fisher 2-12, Henderson 1-11, Walker 1-23, Franks 2-12, Green 2-5, Ferguson 1-1.

Missed field goal—Tennessee: Anderson 42 (8X).

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA
New England	4	0	0	1.000	105	63
N.Y. Jets	4	0	0	1.000	88	75
Buffalo	0	4	0	.000	51	73
Miami	0	4	0	.000	42	87
South						
Indianapolis	2	1	0	.800	109	106
Jacksonville	3	2	0	.600	73	86
Houston	2	2	0	.500	118	127
Tennessee	2	3	0	.400	111	118
North						
Pittsburgh	4	1	0	.800	112	94
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	97	79
Cleveland	3	2	0	.600	82	72
Cincinnati	1	3	0	.250	66	95
West						
Denver	4	1	0	.800	99	74
San Diego	3	2	0	.600	140	115
Oakland	2	3	0	.400	95	119
Kansas City	1	3	0	.250	89	110

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA
Philadelphia	4	0	0	1.000	107	55
N.Y. Giants	4	0	0	1.000	104	72
Dallas	2	2	0	.500	97	91
Washington	2	2	0	.500	71	85
South						
Atlanta	2	1	0	.667	98	66
New Orleans	2	3	0	.400	92	127
Carolina	1	3	0	.250	89	88
Tampa Bay	1	3	0	.250	69	89
North						
Detroit	2	1	0	.667	78	72
Minnesota	3	1	0	.750	112	94
Chicago	1	3	0	.250	68	89
Green Bay	1	4	0	.200	99	142
West						
Seattle	3	1	0	.750	92	46
St. Louis	3	2	0	.600	116	113
Arizona	4	0	0	1.000	87	87
San Francisco	4	0	0	1.000	91	137

Sunday's games

Detroit 17, Atlanta 10
N.Y. Giants 26, Dallas 10
Indianapolis 35, Oakland 14
Minnesota 34, Houston 28, OT
New England 24, Miami 10
Pittsburgh 34, Cleveland 23
Tampa Bay 20, New Orleans 17
N.Y. Jets 34, Buffalo 14
San Diego 24, Jacksonville 21
Seattle 27, OT
San Francisco 31, Arizona 28, OT
Denver 20, Carolina 17
Baltimore 17, Washington 10
Cincinnati, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Chicago

Tennessee's game

Monday's game
Sunday, Oct. 17
Green Bay at Tennessee
Miami at Buffalo
Washington at Chicago
San Francisco at N.Y. Jets
Seattle at New England
Kansas City at Dallas
Cincinnati at Philadelphia
Carolina at Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh at Dallas
Denver at Oakland
Minnesota at New Orleans
Open: Indianapolis, Arizona, N.Y. Giants, Baltimore

Monday, Oct. 18

Tampa Bay at St. Louis

NFL calendar

Oct. 19 — Trading deadline.
Jan. 2 — Regular season ends.
Jan. 8-9 — Wild-card playoffs.
Jan. 15-16 — Divisional playoffs.
Jan. 23 — Pro Bowl, Honolulu.
Feb. 6 — Super Bowl, Jacksonville, Fla.
Feb. 23-March 1 — Scouting combine, Indianapolis.
April 23-24 — NFL Draft, New York.

NFL
Challenge

Hall of Fame

Top Scores for Week 5

182	Wynode9986	Kadena AB, JP
178	linda4back	DECA
178	PITBULL	336 FINCOM
176	ruideration	Isa anaconda
176	rep58	172 ABG
176	Bones	Sasebo, Japan
176	Triple L.L.	Camp Bondsteel
174	Chief	JAC Molesworth
174	pantaus71	Patch Bks, Stuttgart
174	Big "D"	NSA Naples, Italy

STARS AND STRIPES

OCONUS.com

Best Overall Scores

912	giants#1	hlc 2137 ar
888	Chickybowwow	726 AMS
852	Jaguar One	DoDds
850	Dick	Camp Zama
848	james_a_morgan	NCTAMS EURCENT
848	Mercury1	Misawa AB
842	Razorbacks	86 mxx/ga
842	Jack58	432 ABS RAF
842	Jon Corleion	Misawa
840	coupe	77th maint.

See websites for official game rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

Dodgers take positive attitude into winter

First playoff victory since 1988, emergence of Beltre pleases L.A.

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Dodgers made it to the postseason and won a playoff game for the first time in 16 years.

They hope it's only the beginning.

"This experience for us as a team and the city of Los Angeles is a great start," Dodgers slugger Shawn Green said. "Once you do it one time, you learn how to do it again, and you learn how to do it again, and you learn how to do it again."

"I think it will be a different mind-set next year. It would be incredible to go further."

The Dodgers hadn't won a post-season game since the 1988 World Series before beating the Cardinals 4-0 on Saturday night.

Since that time, they had qualified only twice — in 1995 and 1996.

There's a lot of work to be done, starting with what to do about manager Jim Tracy and MVP candidate Adrian Beltre.

Both are without contracts for next season.

"We have a lot of decisions to make as an organization," general manager Paul DePodesta said Sunday night after the Dodgers' loss to the St. Louis Cardinals in the first round of the playoffs.

"There are a lot of positive things here," said the 31-year-old DePodesta, hired last winter by new Dodgers owner Frank McCourt. "We had an incredibly positive year and built a lot of positive momentum that we'd like to maintain going into spring."

It will certainly help if they

re-sign the 25-year-old Beltre, who emerged as one of baseball's top offensive players with a major league-leading 48 homers, 121 RBIs and a .334 batting average. "Beltre's a huge part of this team, on the field and in the clubhouse," Green said. "He's just getting better. It's hard to imagine him having a better season than this year. But once he found it, he's going to repeat it."

Beltre earned \$5 million this season, and he'll likely get a big

raise as one of baseball's most desirable free agents. With the team's expected payroll still a mystery, it's unknown whether the Dodgers will have enough flexibility to keep the third baseman.

"There's new ownership here and I don't know exactly where they want to go," Beltre said. "Nobody knows."

When asked about Beltre, DePodesta replied: "Right there at the top — that's certainly something critical."

DePodesta must also deal with outfielder Steve Finley and starting pitchers Orel Hershiser and Jose Lima, all of whom are free agents.

Eric Gagne, one of baseball's best closers, is arbitration eligible. Since he can enter the free-agent market after the 2006 season, the Dodgers might try to sign him to a long-term deal.

Then there's Tracy, who guided the Dodgers to a 93-69 record this season — their best since 1991. He has a 356-292 mark in four years on the job.

"I'm hopeful I'm going to have the opportunity to continue here,"



Adrian Beltre, who had an MLB-best 48 homers this season with 121 RBIs and a .334 average, is a free agent. He will likely get a raise from the \$5 million he made in 2004. Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta said re-signing the 25-year-old is "certainly something critical."

Tracy said Monday. "I love the community, I love the fans. I feel very strongly that when you put the work in that myself and my coaching staff has put in over the past four years and realizing what's out there on the horizon, this has a chance to be special for several years to come."

DePodesta said last month he hoped to re-sign Tracy. It was agreed that talks wouldn't begin until the season ended.

A year after having a major league-best 3.16 ERA and scoring a major league-low 574 runs, the Dodgers went in opposite directions this season with a 4.01 ERA and 761 runs. They got a franchise-record 53 come-from-be-

hind victories and 26 wins in their last at-bat.

Starting pitching was their biggest problem, especially late in the season. That was illustrated against the Cardinals when Perez failed to get through the third inning in each of his two starts and Jeff Weaver didn't survive the fifth in his outing.

Lima, a journeyman who signed a minor league contract last winter and wasn't a member of the rotation until midseason, pitched a five-hit shutout against the Cardinals in Game 3 and wants to come back. Considering his presence in the clubhouse and popularity with fans, he seems a bargain at whatever price he com-



Manager Jim Tracy led the Dodgers to a 93-69 record — their best since 1991. He is 356-292 in four years in L.A. and is not under contract for next season.

mends. Hideo Nomo, exceptional in 2002-2003, didn't get the job done this season and almost surely won't return. The erratic Kazuhisa Ishii is under contract for next year, but can hardly be counted on despite winning 13 games this season. He was left off the playoff roster.

DePodesta was heavily criticized for the trade deadline deal that sent popular catcher Paul Lo Duca, setup man Guillermo Mota and outfielder Juan Encarnacion for starter Brad Penny, who wound up on the sideline because of irritation of a nerve in his pitching arm.

As it turned out, DePodesta's belief that the Dodgers needed an ace for the starting rotation certainly proved correct, but Penny couldn't fulfill the role because of his injury.

He was terrific in his first start, allowing two hits in eight shutout innings, but was injured early in his second, on Aug. 8. An attempted late-season comeback failed.

"I'm proud of what we did," Gagne said. "It's been a great year and we've got to learn from it. It's been amazing. This team is amazing. You look at the talent, and we're good on paper. But our heart was huge."

"We've just got to remember that feeling next year and get back to it."

D-backs lining up managerial candidates

BY BOB BAUM
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Bob Melvin spoke to the Arizona Diamondbacks about becoming the team's manager on Monday, joining Mark Grace and Al Pedrique as those interviewed for the job.

General manager Joe Garagiola Jr. said interviews are scheduled for three others, and he expects to talk with two more.

Acta, third base coach for the Montreal Expos, will be interviewed on Tuesday; Wally Backman, manager for Arizona's Class A team in Lancaster, Calif., on Wednesday; and Jamie Quirk, bench coach of the Colorado Rockies on Thursday.

The Diamondbacks also have permission to speak with Texas Rangers first base coach DeMarco Hale and bench coach Joe Maddon of the Anaheim Angels.

Garagiola said he had not scheduled interviews with either of them, but hoped to do so soon. He said he had yet to talk to Maddon to measure his interest in the Arizona job.

"I'm hopeful that by the end of the week we will feel we've got a group that we can make some recommendations to ownership on," Garagiola said.

Melvin served as Arizona manager Bob Brenly's bench coach in 2000 and in the World Series championship season of 2001, then left to replace Tim Lincecum as manager of the Seattle Mariners.

The Mariners went 93-69 in 2001, but faded to 63-99 this year, and Melvin was fired after the season ended.

"We were interested in signing him about his experiences as manager, and what were the positives that he took from that," Garagiola said. "It was another good session."

Grace, who retired as a player after the

2003 season and was a television analyst for Arizona's games this year, repeatedly has expressed his desire to manage in the major leagues.

Brenly was the team's television analyst when he was hired to replace the fired Buck Showalter. But unlike Grace, Brenly had experience as a major league coach.

Asked about Grace's lack of experience as either a coach or manager, Garagiola said: "You can neither discount it, nor is it an automatic disqualifier. If it was a disqualifier, we wouldn't have interviewed him."

Pedrique, who began the year as Arizona's third base coach, took over as manager for the remainder of the season after Brenly was fired on July 2. The injury-ravaged Diamondbacks went on to lose 111 games, tied for eighth-most in baseball history.

Jeff Moorad, a prominent player agent, officially takes over as the team's Diamondbacks' chief executive officer on Friday.



Bob Melvin was fired last week after his second season in Seattle after the Mariners fell from 93-69 in 2003 to 63-99 this year.

A-Rod at home in middle of ALCS rivalry

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK—Alex Rodriguez almost ended up wearing a Boston uniform. Instead, he's the proudest player in pinstripes.

Funny how it happened. Baseball's best all-around player appeared headed to the Red Sox before a trade fell through in December. The New York Yankees swooped in and pulled off a blockbuster deal with Texas, acquiring for All-Star second baseman Alfonso Soriano.

A-Rod signed from shortstop to third base so he could play alongside Derek Jeter, and has been at the center of the Yankees-Red Sox storm ever since.

Now he's just glad he landed on this side of the rivalry.

"Without a question, it was a huge blessing in disguise," Rodriguez said Monday as New York prepared to face Boston in the AL Championship Series. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be in pinstripes."

His most important moments yet to come, beginning Tuesday night at Yankee Stadium against Red Sox ace Curt Schilling in Game 1. After watching from home as New York beat Bos-



Rodriguez

(421) with a home run, three doubles and three RBIs to lead the Yankees past the Minnesota Twins in the first round.

Best of all, he excelled in clutch situations after batting only 248 with runners in scoring position during the regular season.

"He can make so many things happen, because he possesses so much ability in every aspect of the game," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "Not everybody can do what he does. I mean, every dimension."

With the Yankees in danger of going down 0-2, Rodriguez hit a tying double in the 12th inning last Wednesday, sparking New York to a comeback victory.

He manufactured the go-ahead run all by himself in the 11th in-

ning of Game 4, when he doubled down the left-field line, stole third and scored on a wild pitch. The Yankees advanced with a 6-5 victory.

"You could see just when he went up to the box to hit, there was that look in his eye," Torre said. "When he got on base, it just looked like he had a determination that something was going to happen."

General Manager Theo Epstein had a deal all worked out last offseason for slugger Manny Ramirez to be shipped to the Rangers for Rodriguez, who would take over at shortstop in Boston once Nomar Garciaparra was traded.

But the players' union vetoed a proposal to restructure Rodriguez's record \$52 million, 10-year contract, so the deal fell apart.

That opened the door for the opportunistic Yankees, always willing to spend.

Boone injured his left knee playing pickup basketball in January, New York jumped in and traded for A-Rod on Feb. 16. Desperate to play for a winning team, he happily agreed to move to third base, replacing Boone, who was later released.

It was another bitter blow for

Boston in this one-sided rivalry. "It feels like it was five to 10 years ago," Rodriguez said. "I don't really care what Red Sox fans are thinking."

Rodriguez caught a tough time in New York, though. Under scrutiny all year, the reigning AL MVP hit .286 with 36 homers, 106 RBIs and 28 stolen bases, subpar numbers for a star.

He did make an impressive transition to third base, committing only 13 errors. And he and Jeter seemed to be becoming fast friends again, often needing each other in the dugout.

"It's been fun for us," Jeter said. "We've enjoyed it because we've been successful, but we're not where we want to be yet."

Tormented by fans at Fenway Park, Rodriguez went 1-for-17 during a four-game slump in April. Then he got into a fight with Boston catcher Jason Varitek in July. But Rodriguez was able to finish the season with three homers and nine RBIs against the Red Sox, batting .306.

"I'm glad he hit that. It's a relief to watch him not face his ball right now," Yankees reliever Tanyon Sturtz said. "He's so knowledgeable. I just think he's a great hitter."

Rivera attends funeral, hops plane for N.Y.

BY JUAN ZAMORANO
The Associated Press

PUERTO CAIMITO, Panama—Mariano Rivera wept, sang and prayed Tuesday at the funeral of two family members who died at his house, and he later raced to catch a private jet to return to New York for Game 1 of the Yankees-Red Sox pennant series.

The star reliever broke out in tears as a choir sang hymns at the God of the Prophecy Church near his home in this fishing village 40 miles from Panama City.

"I have appreciated the support I've given," he told the Associated Press before leaving for the airport. "Life continues and I have to attend to my work."

A private jet carrying Rivera left Panama City at about 2:30 p.m. (3:30 p.m. EDT). Commercial flights to New York City usually take about 4½ hours. That would have him landing shortly before the 8:19 EDT start of the game.

The cousin of Rivera's wife, Clara, died along with his 14-year-old son Saturday at Rivera's house. Officials said Victor

Dario Avila and his son were electrocuted, apparently when an electrical cable fell into the water as the younger Avila was in the pool and his father tried to save him.

On Tuesday, Rivera first visited the zinc-roofed house where a vigil was held around the bodies, then Avila's wife's home in a funeral procession of about 100 people along a gravel street to the Evangelical church.

Since, in a building he had helped build, Rivera sang fervently and, standing alongside his wife, raised his hands in prayer.

Rivera then witnessed the burial under a hot sun at the town cemetery, where he exchanged greetings with townsfolk amid the mood crosses.

Yankees manager Joe Torre said Monday that he wasn't counting on Rivera's return for the start of the AL championship series. "It's his best friend, his wonderful," Torre said. "If he's not, then we understand that."

If Rivera isn't back, Torre said, then Gordon would be the closer. Gordon has been Rivera's primary setup man this season, going 9-4 with a 2.21 ERA and four saves in 80 appearances.

Dodgers' Ventura leaves like he played: quietly

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Robin Ventura retired in a fashion befitting his 16-year career — timely and with fan fanfare.

Ventura told teammates of his decision last week but waited until the Dodgers' postseason run ended Sunday night to make his announcement public.

"I'm absolutely positive. I've realized that it's time to go, and that's it," Ventura said to the Los Angeles Dodgers lost to St. Louis 6-2, eliminating them from the NL playoffs.

Ventura, 37, played nine years with the Chicago White Sox, two with the New York Mets and 2½ with the Yankees before finishing with 1½ seasons in Los Angeles — less than 200 miles from where he grew up.

He was used mostly in a utility role with the Dodgers, hitting 18 homers with five homers and 28 RBIs in 152 at-bats this season. He hit two grand slams — raising his career total to 18. That's tied with Willie McCovey for the

third-most in baseball history, behind Lou Gehrig (23) and Eddie Murray (19).

Ventura, a 267 career hitter, leaves with 294 home runs, 1,182 RBIs and six Gold Gloves for his work at third base.

"I've been fortunate in the four years I've managed in the big leagues to be around some very professional people," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said Monday. "Robin Ventura transcends above everything else you can think of when it comes to professionalism."

Ventura said the limitations of an arthritic right ankle played a role in his decision.

Bonds has knee surgery

SAN FRANCISCO—Barry Bonds underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left knee Tuesday and is expected to be at full strength when the San Francisco Giants open spring training in

February.

The slugger underwent a 20-minute arthroscopic cleanup procedure performed by Dr. Art Ting at the Fremont Surgery Center. Bonds, 40, told the team he first felt pain Oct. 4, the day after the season ended, and he didn't want the injury to affect his offseason training.

Giants trainer Stan Conte said it would take three to six weeks for Bonds to rehabilitate the knee and he should be able to begin his offseason workouts in November.

Vizquel's \$5M option declined

CLEVELAND—The Cleveland Indians declined to pick up Omar Vizquel's \$5 million contract option for next season, making him eligible to become a free agent when the World Series ends.

This step is a mere formality and does not impact the process of re-signing Omar Vizquel," Indians General Manager Mark Shapiro said Tuesday. "It does not lessen our hope or desire in bring-

ing Omar back."

The 37-year-old shortstop has said he wants to return for a 12th season in Cleveland, but the Indians are targeting a starting pitcher.

The Indians will pay Vizquel's \$1 million buyout and could sign him to a new deal or encourage arbitration with him by Dec. 7.

Reds extend Milek's contract through 2006

CINCINNATI—Manager Dave Milek got a long-awaited show of confidence Monday from the Cincinnati Reds' front office, which extended his contract through the 2006 season.

Milek, 42, had little security when he took over for the fired Bob Boone in July 2003. He finished that season as the interim manager, then got only a one-year extension with a club option for 2005.

The Reds had the best record in the NL last June before the pitching staff imploded and injuries gutted the starting lineup.

Cincinnati finished 76-86.

SS Larkin lets go by Reds after 19 seasons

BY JOE KAY
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI—Barry Larkin will not be offered a new contract by the Cincinnati Reds, ending his 19-year career with his hometown team, he told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The shortstop said he was informed of the team's decision in a phone call earlier in the day.

"Nothing really surprises me anymore," Larkin said from his home in Orlando, Fla.

Larkin, 40, grew up in Cincinnati and spent his entire career with the Reds, developing into one of the most prominent players in their history. He helped the team win a World Series in 1990 and won the NL's Most Valuable Player award in 1995, the last time the Reds made the playoffs.

Injuries had limited him in recent years, and he decided to make the 2004 season his last. But a good season came — he hit .289 and made the All-Star team — prompted him to reconsider and ask for one more season.

He had an inkling the club was going to make an offer when the front office decided not to talk about contracts with its free agents until after the season. He made sure to tell teammates and fans goodbye on the final day of the season, just in case the Reds didn't want him back.

Larkin was willing to discuss a role as a pinch runner with the Reds, working to develop its young shortstops. The club evidently wasn't interested.

The Reds had no immediate comment, but scheduled a news conference for Tuesday.

"It wasn't pleasant," Larkin said of the Reds' decision. "But it is what it is. It's definitely disappointing. I have decisions to make."

Larkin, who becomes a free agent, isn't sure whether he wants to play one more year for another team and finish his career in a different uniform.

"I have to see what opportunities present themselves, if there's anything that makes sense," he said.

Larkin said the Reds told him that they want to develop young shortstops. Anderson Machado and Felipe Lopez rather than bring him back.

Machado replaced Larkin after the third inning of a season-ending 2-0 loss to Pittsburgh at the American Ball Park, giving fans one final chance to applaud him. Larkin thanked fans over the public address system and lobbied for one more season in Cincinnati.

He wasn't surprised that it didn't happen.

"I left Cincinnati in a pretty good situation, actually," Larkin said. "The last year I played there was a great year. It was a tough last month, because basically I didn't let my players play the last month. I made the All-Star team, played well and played hard. I did what I could do."

Baseball's perfect lost weary of role

Atlanta eliminated from playoffs at home for fifth straight season

BY CHARLES ODOM
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Those who criticized the Atlanta Braves for cashing in on only one of five World Series appearances in the 1990s should at least give those teams credit for making it that far.

The Braves of the 2000s can only dream of a World Series loss.

With Monday night's 12-3 loss to the Houston Astros in Game 5, the Braves have been eliminated in the NL Division Series in three consecutive years and four of five.

And while the Braves made this playoff series interesting with a gritty Game 4 comeback in Houston on Sunday, that road season set up the home fans for more misery. For a fifth straight year, Atlanta fans watched a visiting team celebrate after eliminating the Braves.

"The older guys don't want to sit there and watch it," said third baseman Chipper Jones, one of the team's veterans. "It's old hat; we've been through it before. Guys like Chuckie [Thomas] and Adam [LaRoche], they need to

feel that sting. That will motivate them in the offseason."

The 2003 Cubs, 2002 Giants and 2000 Cardinals clinched their first-round wins in Atlanta, and Atlanta wrapped up its 2001 NL pennant at Turner Field.

The Braves' first season in Turner Field was 1997, and in seven of their eight years in "The Ted" the Braves have been eliminated from the postseason at home. The lone exception was 1999, when the Braves were swept in the World Series by the Yankees, and Game 4 was played in New York.

The Braves are 4-12 in their last 16 home postseason games, including a 1-2 home record in this series.

Jaret Wright lost for the second time in the series. Though he had been through the postseason grind before with Cleveland in 1997, he said the pain was new and unique.

"It's never fun to lose," Wright said. "To go out there and lay it on the line, you can't describe it." Wright gave up four runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings.



Atlanta Braves players, from left, Dewayne Wise, Wilson Betemit and Travis Smith look dejected during Monday's playoff loss in Atlanta.

"Trying to shut down a team like that is a tough job," he said. "We gave it all we had."

Reliever Chris Reitsma gave up four runs and four hits in two-thirds of an inning, leaving him with an 18.00 ERA for the series.

"It doesn't feel good," Reitsma said. "It's frustrating to come to this point and lose. It's a pretty bad feeling."

The Braves, who have at times played before empty seats in the playoffs in recent years, can't blame their fans for lack of sup-

port Monday. A Turner Field sell-out crowd of 54,068 showed up, the second-largest crowd in Atlanta history, but Braves' fans had few occasions to chant and chop their familiar red foam tomahawks.

The Braves' 13th consecutive division flag has been mounted in left field, but the division dynasty was again reduced to postseason rubble as the wild-card Astros won their first postseason series.

"It just doesn't seem fitting for the postseason to end like this," Jones said.

Launch: Team full of B's gets all A's in Game 5

LAUNCH, FROM BACK PAGE

The Bums won on their eighth try in the 1955 World Series.

Houston jumped ahead 3-0 on Jaret Wright, with Beltran homering in the third. The Braves had the big crowd roaring in the fifth when Rafael Furcal and Johnny Estrada hit solo homers, but Beltran hit a drive off Wright that just cleared the right-field wall leading off the sixth.

Wright also was the loser in Game 4, putting a damper on his 15-win comeback season.

The Astros finished off the Braves in the seventh, scoring five runs with two outs. Chris Reitsma gave up RBI singles to Biggio and Beltran before Bagwell launched a mammoth two-run homer to the left-field seats. Jeff Kent added an RBI single off Tom Rortney for a 9-2 lead.

Roy Oswalt, pitching on three days' rest for the second time this season, made it through five innings for his first postseason win. He threw 111 pitches, the Braves helping out by stranding seven runners.

Bagwell and Biggio, who took much of the blame for Houston's past futility, silenced their critics. Biggio was 8-for-10 (.400) with a homer and four RBIs in the series. Bagwell was 7-for-22 (.318) with two homers and five RBIs.

No one was better than Beltran — 10-for-22 (.455) with eight RBIs, capped by a two-run single in the eighth.



Houston Astros' Carlos Beltran celebrates his second home run in Game 5 Monday in Atlanta.

"When I played in Kansas City, a lot of people didn't know who I was," he said. "But as soon as I was traded to Houston, people started realizing who I was."

The Astros underachieved much of the season. Phil Garner took over as manager at the All-Star break, and Houston had to win 36 of its last 46 games just to get the wild card.

Not a bad formula, actually. Last year, the Florida Marlins fired their manager during the season, got into the playoffs as a second-place team and went on to beat New York Yankees in the World Series.

Furcal tried to spark the Braves with eight hits, two homers, five runs and three stolen bases in the series.

Of course, he had plenty of incentive, facing a 21-day jail arrest for his second DUI arrest. The judge delayed the sentence until the day after the Braves' season ended, so Furcal reports to jail Tuesday.

Friends mourn Caminiti; cause of death uncertain

BY PAM EASTON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Ken Caminiti's struggles both on and off the field kept the former National League Most Valuable Player fighting, but he had managed to survive them all — including a drug charge three years ago.

Caminiti's death of an apparent heart attack over the weekend shocked friends and former teammates who believed the former Houston Astros slugger was turning his life around.

"He had a lot of setbacks, but he was a person who always overcame adversity," Terry Yates, Caminiti's lawyer, said Monday. "He was a person who was always positive and had a positive outlook on life."

Yates stood next to Caminiti last week as the ex-athlete admitted testing positive for cocaine.

Caminiti's agent-lawyer, Rick Licht, said the three-time All-Star third baseman died of an apparent heart attack Sunday in New York City. But the process of confirming an exact cause of death could take as long as 10 days. The city medical examiner's office performed an autopsy Monday but could not rule on a cause of death until toxicology tests were complete, spokeswoman Ellen Borokovskaya said.

Caminiti was optimistic about his future and planned to pursue some development projects in Montana, Yates said, and was also talking with the San Diego Padres about returning to the organization, possibly as a coach.

The slugger's sentence of 180

days in jail, ordered by State District Judge William Harmon, allowed for his release last Tuesday. He already had served 189 days behind bars and in a drug treatment center since he received deferred adjudication for felony cocaine possession in March 2001.

Caminiti was convicted of the felony charge because of the probation violation. He had failed four drug tests during his probation, which began in 2002.

"Ken had been with us Wednesday afternoon and when he left, he was upbeat in a good mood and anxious to come back to Houston so we could figure some things out regarding his future," another lawyer, Rick Schaeffer, said.

Astros star Jeff Bagwell reflected on the report that it was a heart attack that killed his friend. "That's where it starts — his heart," Bagwell told the Houston Chronicle in Tuesday's editions.

One of the biggest attributes Ken had in his heart — how our relationship developed, and all the great things that he's meant to my life. I think if you start with his heart and how great a person he was, that's a good way to remember him."

"We are truly saddened by the death of Ken," Astros owner Lyndon LaRue said. "We admire him for his accomplishments and the respect he gained with his teammates because of his passion for playing the game."

We all rooted hard for Ken on the field, and we rooted equally hard for him in overcoming his problems off the field."

Baseball scoreboard

MLB playoffs	
Division series	
American League	
New York Yankees at Boston	Tuesday, Oct. 5
Minnesota 2, New York 1	Wednesday, Oct. 6
New York 7, Minnesota 6, 12 innings	Friday, Oct. 8
New York 6, Minnesota 4	Saturday, Oct. 9
New York wins series 3-1	
National League	
St. Louis at Los Angeles	Tuesday, Oct. 5
St. Louis 8, Los Angeles 7	Thursday, Oct. 7
St. Louis 6, Los Angeles 5	Friday, Oct. 8
Los Angeles 4, St. Louis 0	Sunday, Oct. 10
St. Louis 6, Los Angeles 2, St. Louis wins series 3-2	

Atlanta vs. Houston	Wednesday, Oct. 6
Houston 9, Atlanta 3	Thursday, Oct. 7
Atlanta 4, Houston 2, 11 innings	Friday, Oct. 8
Houston 8, Atlanta 5	Saturday, Oct. 9
Atlanta 6, Houston 3	Sunday, Oct. 10
Houston 12, Atlanta 1	Monday, Oct. 11
Atlanta 6, Houston 2, Houston wins series 3-2	

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES	
American League	
Boston (Schilling 2-1) at New York (Lieberman 12-9)	Wednesday, Oct. 13
Boston (Martinez 12-9) at New York (Muehle 14-8)	Thursday, Oct. 14
Friday, Oct. 15	
New York (Brown 10-4) at Boston (Arroyo 10-4)	Saturday, Oct. 16
New York (Lieberman 12-9) at Boston (Vazquez 14-10)	Sunday, Oct. 17
New York at Boston, if necessary	Tuesday, Oct. 19
Boston at New York, if necessary	Wednesday, Oct. 20
Boston at New York, if necessary	Thursday, Oct. 21
Houston at St. Louis	Friday, Oct. 22
Houston at St. Louis	Saturday, Oct. 23
St. Louis at Houston	Sunday, Oct. 24
St. Louis at Houston	Monday, Oct. 25
St. Louis at Houston, if necessary	Tuesday, Oct. 26
Houston at St. Louis, if necessary	Wednesday, Oct. 27
Houston at St. Louis, if necessary	Thursday, Oct. 28
St. Louis at Houston, if necessary	Friday, Oct. 29
St. Louis at Houston, if necessary	Saturday, Oct. 30
St. Louis at Houston, if necessary	Sunday, Oct. 31
St. Louis at Houston, if necessary	Monday, Oct. 31

World Series	
American League	
New York Yankees at Los Angeles	Saturday, Oct. 23
St. Louis at Houston	Sunday, Oct. 24
St. Louis at Houston	Monday, Oct. 25
St. Louis at Houston, if necessary	Tuesday, Oct. 26
Houston at St. Louis, if necessary	Wednesday, Oct. 27
Houston at St. Louis, if necessary	Thursday, Oct. 28
St. Louis at Houston, if necessary	Friday, Oct. 29
St. Louis at Houston, if necessary	Saturday, Oct. 30
St. Louis at Houston, if necessary	Sunday, Oct. 31
St. Louis at Houston, if necessary	Monday, Oct. 31

Monday	
Astros 12, Braves 3	
HOUSTON	ATLANTA
Abel 5/2 31	Furcal ss 4/2 21
Biggio lf 5/2 31	Reitsma p 4/2 21
Wright cf 5/2 31	Beltran rf 4/2 21
McMullen 2b 5/2 31	Bagwell 1b 4/2 21
Clayton 3b 5/2 31	Adams c 4/2 21
Brent 1b 5/2 31	Arroyo p 4/2 21
Brum 1b 5/2 31	Alfonso 2b 4/2 21
Alfonso 2b 5/2 31	Thomas 3b 4/2 21
Alfonso 3b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 4b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 5b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 6b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 7b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 8b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 9b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 10b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 11b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 12b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 13b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 14b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 15b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 16b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 17b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 18b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 19b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 20b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 21b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 22b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 23b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 24b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 25b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 26b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 27b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 28b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 29b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 30b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 31b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 32b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 33b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 34b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 35b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 36b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 37b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 38b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 39b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 40b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 41b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 42b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 43b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 44b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 45b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 46b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 47b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 48b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 49b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 50b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 51b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 52b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 53b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 54b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 55b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 56b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 57b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 58b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 59b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 60b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 61b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 62b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 63b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 64b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 65b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 66b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 67b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 68b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 69b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 70b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 71b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 72b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 73b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 74b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 75b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 76b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 77b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 78b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 79b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 80b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 81b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 82b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 83b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 84b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 85b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 86b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 87b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 88b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 89b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 90b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 91b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 92b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 93b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 94b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 95b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 96b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 97b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 98b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 99b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21
Alfonso 100b 5/2 31	Wright 1b 4/2 21

Houston at St. Louis, if necessary

WORLD SERIES
Saturday, Oct. 23
National League at American League
Sunday, Oct. 24

NL at AL
Tuesday, Oct. 26

AL at NL
Wednesday, Oct. 27

AL at NL
Thursday, Oct. 28

AL at NL, if necessary
Saturday, Oct. 30

NL at AL, if necessary
Sunday, Oct. 31

NL at AL, if necessary

SPORTS



Larkin won't be invited back
after 19 stellar seasons
with hometown club, Page 38

Successful launch

Astros blast Braves in first playoff series win

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The journey was long, with plenty of discouraging setbacks along the way.

The last step was easy.

The Houston Astros finally won a postseason series in their 43rd year, shaking off the burden of seven playoff losses with a 12-3 rout of the Atlanta Braves on Monday night.

The newest Killer B, Carlos Beltran, hit two more homers and had five RBIs in the deciding fifth game of the first-round NL series.

With that, Houston got to experience all the trappings of postseason success: the group hug on the pitcher's mound, the sweet taste of champagne in the clubhouse.

"We feel comfortable with our team," said Beltran, an impending free agent acquired from Kansas City in June. "The past is in the past. We win, we move on."

The triumph was especially satisfying for Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio, the heart of the Killer B's for more than a decade and part of the last four playoff series losses.

Three of those times, Houston's season ended with a loss to the Braves.

"We've been through a lot here, Craig and I and this organization," Bagwell said. "This is a big relief for us."

Beltran homered four times in the series, breaking the Houston postseason record. In a poignant note, the mark was formerly held by Ken Caminiti, who spent 10 seasons with the Astros.

Caminiti died Sunday of an apparent heart attack at age 41 — news that hit his former teammates especially hard.

"I think I felt his spirit out there," Biggio said.

"I know he's smiling somewhere," Bagwell added.

The clubhouse celebration was rather muted for a team that has endured so much postseason disappointment. The Astros enjoyed soaking their owner, Drayton McLane, but didn't appear satisfied with winning one playoff series.

Next up for the wild-card Astros is a matchup against Central Division rival St. Louis in the NL Championship Series starting Wednesday night at Busch Stadium.

After squandering a three-run lead in Game 4, the Astros had the series right where they wanted it.

Atlanta has lost Game 5 of the division series three times in a row — all at Turner Field. The second-largest crowd in franchise history, 54,068, saw another familiar ending.



Houston Astros players celebrate defeating the Atlanta Braves 12-3 in Game 5 to win their National League Division Series in Atlanta on Monday. It was the Astros' first series victory in their 43-year history.

John Smoltz hopes it won't diminish the perception of a team that was picked to finish no better than third in the NL East.

"For one night, it's a very terrible feeling," the Atlanta closer said. "When you break down this team, it was a really remarkable

year." The team that proudly displays 13 straight division titles still has only one World Series to show for it. It marked the fifth straight year that the Braves' season ended at the Ted.

This one was especially dismal,

equaling the worst postseason loss in franchise history.

The Astros exorcised their playoff demons, matching the Brooklyn Dodgers for most series losses before getting their first postseason victory.

SEE LAUNCH ON PAGE 39



Packers in trouble after third straight loss at Lambeau Field

Page 36



Yao returns home to lead Rockets in first NBA games played in China

Page 34



Islanders' Loving part of Okinawa's most potent backfield combo

Page 33



6 54260 00101 9